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DIEU ET MON DROIT

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Bank holiday food special







Extra £10k to woo more teachers from abroad

Global search to fill maths and science posts

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor
Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

Foreign teachers are being offered £10,000 to work in English schools in an overseas recruitment drive by ministers to fill classroom vacancies.

Hundreds of maths, science and language teachers will be brought in from countries such as India and Nigeria this year, with plans to expand recruitment schemes to other countries and subjects.

Applications for teacher training courses from outside Europe have surged this year, highlighting tensions in the government's approach to immigration. Net migration hit a record of 606,000 last year, figures published by the Office for National Statistics this week showed.

Unions have criticised a "desperate" attempt to use overseas staff as a sticking plaster to avoid giving existing staff a bigger pay rise as schools struggle with a chronic shortage of homegrown teachers and protracted strikes. In an effort to boost numbers, ministers have quietly begun an overseas recruitment initiative under which the rules have changed to more easily recognise maths, science and language-teaching qualifications from Ghana, India, Singapore, Jamaica, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The countries are considered to have historical education links to Britain as well as teachers who are interested in working here. Making it easier for them to gain qualified teacher status puts teachers from these countries on a par with those from Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Teachers must have a degree, recognised teacher-training qualifications and at least a year's experience. They need to speak English to undergraduate level.

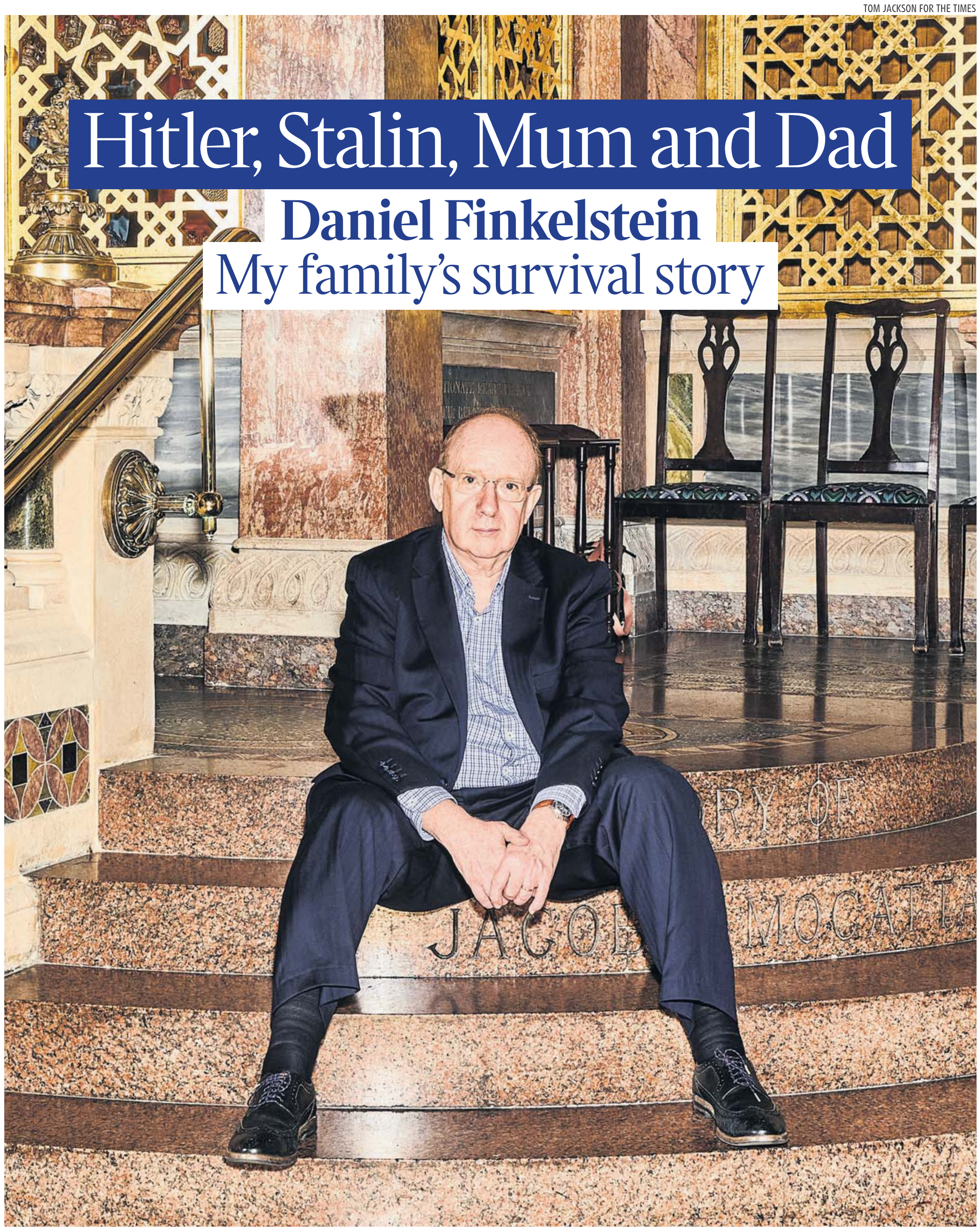
Teachers are eligible for visas to work in Britain if they have a job offer and earn a minimum salary that depends on their role, typically at least £27,000.

Hundreds of teachers are expected to come in through this route in the next academic year and officials expect in future to include more countries and subjects. In addition, the Department for Education has begun to offer £10,000 "international relocation payments" to overseas physics and language teachers to cover visa and moving expenses. Officials expect between 300 and 400 teachers to get the payments in the coming academic

Continued on page 4

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9 771742 498769

TOM JACKSON FOR THE TIMES



Daniel Finkelstein at the West London Synagogue, where his parents met and married. His new memoir, which tells their story of love and bravery, camps and gulags, theft and forgery and amazing coincidences, is serialised in the Magazine starting today

VISIT…

LANZAROTE Caliente.com

Today's highlights

11.15am **Ranj Singh**, right, on How To Be A Boy, his "empowering and inclusive guide to masculinity for readers aged 10+"

12.05pm **Burkhard Bilger** talks about his book Fatherland in which he investigates his grandfather, a Nazi party chief

6.05pm **David Charter**, The Times's US editor, joins **Mike DuHaime**, Republican strategist, and **Drew Littman**, Democrat strategist, to discuss the race for the White House



TIMES RADIO
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TODAY'S EDITION

Hunt ready for recession risk

Jeremy Hunt has suggested that the risk of recession would be worth taking to bring inflation down amid concerns that mortgage rates are about to rise rapidly. The chancellor was comfortable with the Bank of England putting up interest rates again as it tried to curb prices. **Page 6**

DeSantis slams Covid policy

Ron DeSantis, the Florida governor, tried to fight his way back into the Republican race for the White House, accusing Donald Trump of destroying lives during the pandemic by imposing lockdowns and social distancing advocated by his medical adviser. **Page 42**

Abcam founder scorns US move

Jonathan Milner, founder of Abcam, one of Britain's leading biotechnology companies, has attacked its transfer from London's Aim stock exchange to the Nasdaq index in New York, calling the switch a "story of UK-phobia and a push for higher remuneration". **Page 49**

59 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia
#FreeEvan



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WEEKEND



NEW FAMILY
'I'm having my second surrogate baby'
PULLOUT, COVER STORY

SATURDAY REVIEW



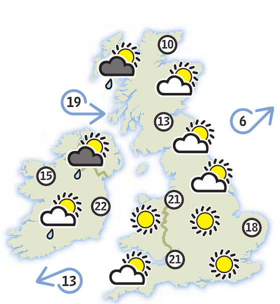
INSIDE TRACK
Caitlin FitzGerald on the finale of Succession
PULLOUT, COVER STORY

SPORT



PREMIER STATUS
Everton, Leicester and Leeds are fighting for survival
PULLOUT, COVER STORY

THE WEATHER



Mostly sunny and warm but thicker cloud will bring rain in Scotland and Ireland. **Full forecast, page 77**

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BA system meltdown disrupts half-term plans for thousands

Laurence Sleator

Tens of thousands of people have had their bank holiday and half-term plans disrupted after British Airways cancelled more than 150 flights because of an IT failure.

The airline said the "knock-on effect of a technical issue", which began on Thursday, had left aircraft and crew out of position, leading to flight cancellations, mostly on short-haul routes in and out of Heathrow.

An estimated 16,000 passengers have been affected, with at least 82 BA flights cancelled on Thursday and a further 92 on Friday, according to data from Cirium, the aviation analytics company.

It left hundreds of passengers stranded at Heathrow or abroad as they were unable to catch connecting flights. Many were stuck in large queues in a search for information.

Some customers said they were unable to check-in online or on the app, and others were left on the tarmac for hours or faced long delays while trying to reclaim baggage.

Analysis showed that almost half the flights between Edinburgh and Heathrow were grounded in the space of 24 hours, ten flights to and from Milan were cancelled, as were almost a third of Geneva flights. Passengers were told to check their flight status before going to the airport and to call customer services only if their flight was due within 24 hours.

The disruption happened on what was expected to be the busiest day at airports since before the coronavirus pandemic, with more than 3,000 flights set to depart from UK airports as people jet off for the spring bank holiday weekend and the half-term break.

A BA spokesman said: "While the vast majority of our flights continue to operate, we have cancelled some of our short-haul flights from Heathrow due to the knock-on effect of a technical issue. We've apologised to customers whose flights have been affected and offered them the option to rebook to an alternative flight with us or another carrier or request a refund."

It is understood that the airline has tried to limit cancellations to frequent routes so it can rebook customers on alternative routes. Alison John, who arrived at Heathrow early on Thursday after flying in from Virginia in the US, said that Terminal 5 had "become a giant car park", with staff resorting to checking-in people with paper and clipboards.

Ian Burrows said that he was two hours late leaving Dublin on Thursday and was then forced to wait more than an hour on the tarmac at Heathrow as there was no stand for the plane.

BA has suffered several IT failures in recent years. The company was forced to cancel flights in the run-up to last Christmas because of a problem with its systems.

At the port of Dover, an estimated 5,500 cars and 350 coaches were expected to travel to France yesterday. However, unlike at Easter, when there were 15-hour delays for some passengers, waiting times for cars and coaches were about an hour.

The RAC estimated that drivers across the UK would embark on 19.2 million leisure trips between yesterday and Monday. On the M25 there were delays of more than 90 minutes and there was also congestion on the M27, M3 and M5.

Russia will be 'vindictive' in defeat

Ross Kaniuk

The outgoing head of the RAF has warned that Russia will be "vindictive" if it loses the Ukraine war and Moscow would pose a direct threat to Britain.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston, the chief of the air staff, said Russia's air force, surface navy and submarine force would remain threats to Britain and Nato and that it was a concern "we must focus our minds on".

He also warned that if President Putin were ousted, the threat could even become worse.

Britain has provided equipment and unequivocal vocal support to Ukraine since the launch of Russia's invasion in February last year.

The RAF has given intelligence and material help. Wigston told The Daily Telegraph: "When the Ukraine conflict is over and Ukraine has restored its borders, as it must, we will have a damaged, vindictive and brutal Russia, whose means of harming us is through air attack, missile attack and submarine attack."

He was echoing a view given earlier this month by Christopher Cavoli, a US general and the head of America's European Command, that Russian losses on the ground in Ukraine had not diminished its ability to threaten others it might seek conflict with.

Wigston, 55, is to step down next month after four years at the top of the RAF. He said the Kremlin system "is more than about just one person", and if Putin lost power others taking over "could be equally brutal and vicious". He added: "There is a whole structure and hierarchy behind Putin."

The Ministry of Defence said: "We won't be commenting any further than the chief of the air staff's words." The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office was contacted for comment.

At the G7 summit in Hiroshima last week, Rishi Sunak insisted that Britain's support for Ukraine would "never waver". The prime minister was "delighted" the group of nations had agreed on the "importance" of giving President Zelensky the advanced military equipment needed to "win this war and prosper as a free and democratic nation."

The G7 was known as the G8 until 2014 when Russia was expelled.

Russian hackers hit fraud squad, page 9

Poison can be brought into UK too easily, says coroner

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

A coroner is to write to the government to highlight how a lethal poison can be freely imported to suicidal people in the UK after a Times investigation into a string of deaths.

The company owned by Kenneth Law, a Canadian chef, sent the substance to Tom Parfett, 22, in 2021.

The philosophy undergraduate took the poison — which we are not naming — and died in October that year. His death led to a Times investigation into Law, who acknowledged to a reporter that he sold the substance for the purpose of suicide and that "many, many, many, many" had died.

After the exposé, Law, 57, was charged in Canada with aiding the suicide of two people. He sent 1,200 packages to 40 countries, police said. The Times can link him to 20 deaths, including 13 in the UK.

At Parfett's inquest yesterday Darren Stewart, Surrey's coroner, said he would write to the government over the "gap" in British law. The substance is reportable under the Poisons Act, meaning UK companies must report to the Home Office buyers who they believe are looking to cause harm to themselves or others. Stewart noted the poison could be imported "without any controls at all" and he is to prepare a "prevention of future death" report.

The Times had reported that Parfett, who grew up in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, had died after buying the poison from Law's company.

Parfett had had a diagnosis of autism when he was 12 and struggled with anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder. He studied philosophy at the University of St Andrews in 2019, before dropping out during his second year. He restarted his studies in 2021, but was sectioned after talking about taking his life. In October 2021 Parfett checked into a Premier Inn in Sunbury-on-Thames. He was found dead there.

Photographs from Parfett's hotel room showed a packet with the name of Law's website written on it, but Surrey police did not receive the website name until a year later. An officer then emailed Law, but received no response.

Surrey police were contacted for comment. The inquest was adjourned.

Tragic cadet was 'let down by Sandhurst'

George Grylls Defence Correspondent

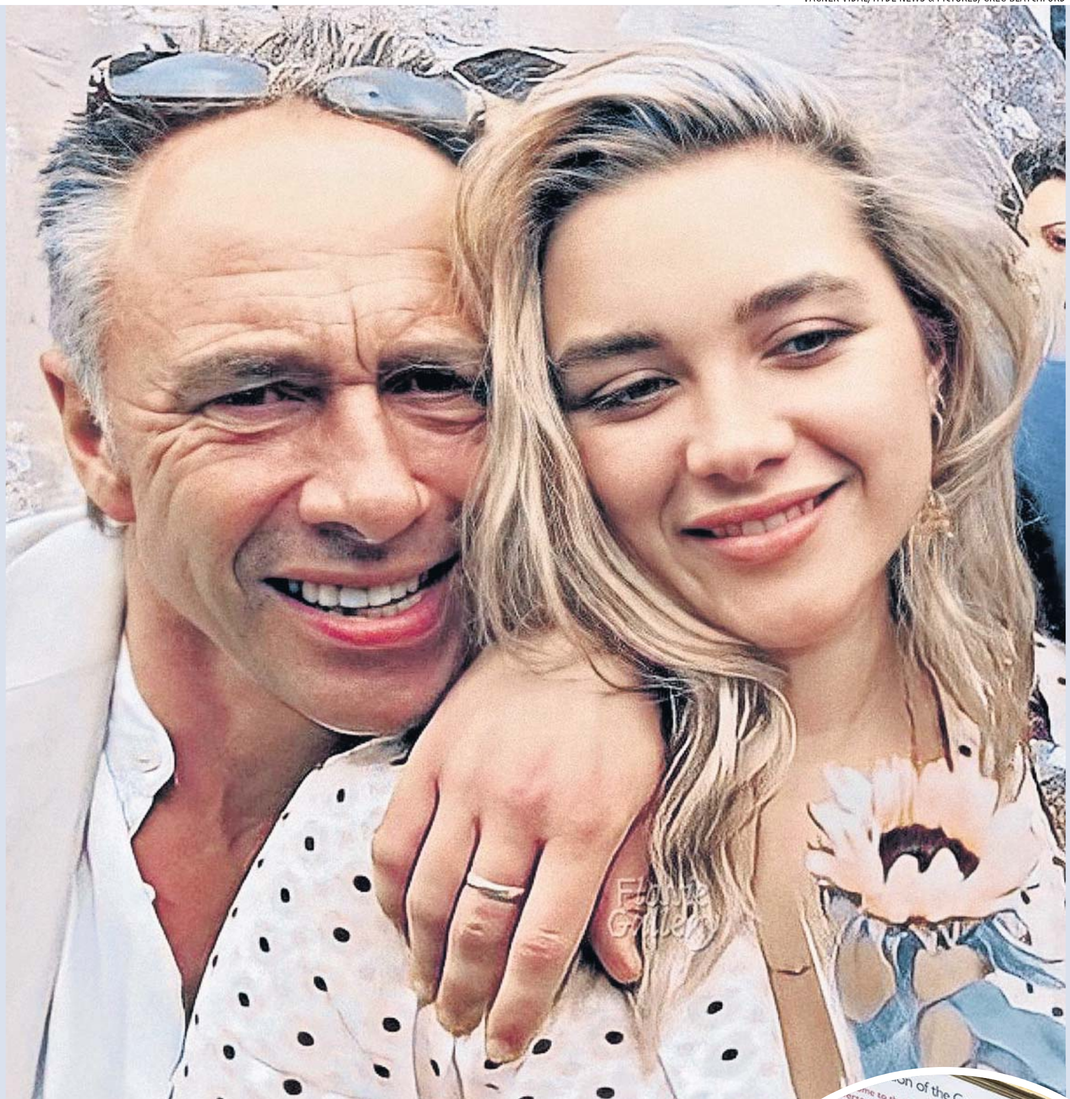
A 21-year-old officer cadet who took her own life at Sandhurst was afraid she would be kicked out of the army because of rumours about sexual relationships with two of the academy's instructors, a coroner has ruled.

Olivia Perks was found hanged in her room on February 6, 2019. In the months leading up to her death, she had made a suicide attempt and self-harmed in public while drunk. The inquest ruled that she was let down when the chain of command failed to place her under medical supervision and reduced her risk rating from red to amber.

Alison McCormick, the Berkshire assistant coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide. Afterwards Louise Townsend, Perks's mother, said: "We have been fighting for the truth of what really happened since she passed, and the story we were presented with at the start of this process by the Ministry of Defence was very different to the conclusion that has now been reached by the coroner."



VAGNER VIDAL/HYDE NEWS & PICTURES; GREG BLATCHFORD



Clinton Pugh said the low-traffic neighbourhood was turning customers away from the venues where his daughter, Florence, used to work

Actress's father says traffic curbs brought business to standstill

On a hot summer's day, the Oscar-nominated actress Florence Pugh's dream drink is an elderflower pressé with smashed mint from one of her father's Oxford venues. But for Café Tarifa, one of Clinton Pugh's venues in the east of the city, the drinks are no longer flowing because the bar has been repossessed (Tom Witherow writes).

The businessman, who owns two other restaurants on Cowley Road, Oxford, has blamed the council's low-traffic neighbourhood (LTN) for driving away customers and staff.

Pugh, 65, said he would not turn to his daughter, although she had previously stepped in to keep him afloat.

"My daughter has already helped me out, and I don't want to feel blackmailed that they think my daughter will come and bail me out," he said. "Dad's old enough to look after himself."

The lease on Café Tarifa, which Pugh built in the 2000s, was already up for sale for £100,000 when it went under. He was behind on the rent, and struggling to get enough customers through the door.

Pugh blames Oxfordshire council's "ill-thought-out plan to block a distance of 1.2 miles on Cowley Road".

"It's having a very damaging effect on many businesses," he said. "Having three units on the same road has exaggerated the fact. It's hard to find people who want to work here, and footfall has reduced. It was one of the most vibrant roads in Oxford . . . they are killing that vibrant economy.

"I want an apology. I have been losing money, and nobody, not one councillor, came to see me before the LTN was installed."

Pugh has already been in hot water while campaigning against the LTN, which was introduced a year ago. He was threatened with a £2,500 fine over signs reading "Censored!" and "So much for democracy!" which he placed outside Café Coco.

He received a letter from the council that said it was "investigating the offence" because "no advertisement consent had been sought".

One meeting between Cowley Road traders and a councillor descended into acrimony, with Pugh claiming Andrew Gant, the cabinet member for highway management, called him a liar. The council denies the claim.

The arguments are a far cry from the idyllic picture painted by his daughter in a recent appearance on the *Off Menu* podcast in March.

She told the comedian James Acaster: "My dad has three restaurants . . . He's been running and designing and making and creating restaurants since whenever he could, so, all of our first jobs were in the restaurants."

The *Little Women* actress, who is 27, said her "dream hot day drink" was a fresh elderflower pressé from Café Coco, and her starter of choice was her father's tomato tart.

The battle over the LTN is the latest in years of clashes between Pugh and the council. He claimed that he had been fighting for 18 years to put more than three tables and chairs on the street outside Café Coco and neighbouring bar, Kazbar.

The pandemic turned the argument in his favour and, after contributing in excess of £20,000 to level the road, he was able to use it.

An Oxfordshire council spokeswoman said the LTN trial in east Oxford was still going on and it continued to take feedback into account before a decision, which would be made by the council's cabinet later this year, on whether to continue the trial.

She said LTNs were "designed to improve travel and transport. They are intended to make residential streets safer and more comfortable for walking, wheeling, and cycling."



Orca attack floods Briton's yacht

Shayma Bakht

A British sailor was attacked by killer whales while onboard a yacht off Gibraltar. April Boyes, 31, said that the pod of orcas began "tearing bits off" the rudder, causing water to flood into the boat's engine room in the early hours of Tuesday.

A video shared by Boyes on social media shows the pod stalking the yacht off Gibraltar, before causing severe damage, leaving the crew unable to steer the boat.

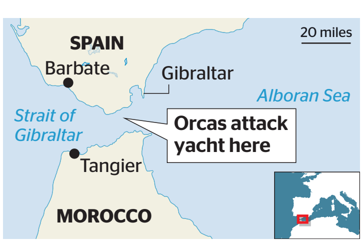
In the video posted on her Instagram page, she said that the attack began as a "seemingly unique encounter [but] ended with orcas breaking the rudder off the boat, then proceeding to tear off bits of the boat for over an hour."

She added: "A huge hole in the hull meant we had water ingress to other parts of the boat and the engine room."

The crew were seen frantically using buckets to try to stop the water in the yacht from rising. "I can honestly say [it] was a scary experience," Boyes added. "I'm grateful to the coastguard."



Attacks by orcas are becoming more common in the Strait of Gibraltar



The local maritime rescue service said killer whales were responsible for severely damaging a 20-metre sailing boat off southern Spain. It said dozens of orca attacks on vessels off Spain and Portugal had been reported this year.

The rescue team deployed a rapid-response vessel and a helicopter with a bilge pump to prevent the boat from sinking. The yacht, which was sailing under a British flag, was towed to the port of Barbate, in the province of Cadiz, for repairs.

Researchers believe that an aggressive killer whale known as White Gladis is responsible for leading a pod of orcas that have been attacking boats in the Strait of Gibraltar.

Alfredo López Fernández, a marine biologist at the University of Aveiro, in Portugal, told Live Science the original incident involving Gladis was probably a "critical moment of agony". He said: "The orcas are doing this on purpose. Of course, we don't know the origin or the motivation, but defensive behaviour based on trauma, as the origin of all this, gains more strength for us every day."

Guidelines issued by the Spanish Transport Ministry have warned ships to leave the area immediately after observing any change in the behaviour of orcas — such as sudden changes of direction or speed — to avoid further disturbance to the animals. It added that interactions between a ship and any orca must be reported.

According to the research group GT Atlantic Orca, which tracks populations of the Iberian orca sub-species, at least 20 interactions between small vessels and the whales in the Strait of Gibraltar were reported this month alone. Last year 207 interactions were recorded.

Also this month the sailing yacht Alboran Champagne became completely flooded after being severely attacked by three orcas off Barbate. The ship could not be towed and was left adrift to sink.

Orcas, which are endangered and are a part of the dolphin family, can measure up to eight metres and weigh up to six tonnes.

Greg Blackburn, 32, from Pontefract in West Yorkshire, faced a similar attack on his 46ft yacht by a pod this month. He said: "I personally believe that they see boats taking their food reserves and they are simply trying to protect it, as we would any harvest of our own. It's quite clear when you see the amount of fishing in the area and you learn from locals about the fishing skiffs that have been attacked. There has to be a reason why they are doing this — and I think it's because the blue-finned tuna they live on is becoming endangered."

It was previously suggested that black antifouling paint applied to ships and yachts to prevent the growth of marine organisms could be behind the rise in incidents.

Tighter family visa rules on cards to ease migration

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

The Home Office wants to introduce rules that would make it harder for partners, spouses, children and parents to join British residents in the UK to try to cut record net migration.

However, it is facing fresh pressure over its failure to deport foreign criminals as figures showed that nearly 12,000 offenders eligible for deportation are living in the community.

Tory MPs want ministers to introduce more measures to reduce immigration after figures on Thursday showed 606,000 more people came to the UK than left last year. Among proposals being considered is raising the financial requirements for residents in the UK to bring family with them. At present, someone with indefinite leave to remain in the UK can bring their partner if they have a combined income of at least £18,600 a year.

It is thought that Suella Braverman, the home secretary, wants to raise the figure significantly over concerns that some nationalities, in particular Indians, Pakistanis and Nigerians, are using the rules to move their families to the UK.

Ministers also want to raise the eligibility thresholds for bringing children and parents to the UK. There is no income threshold needed for parents to move to the UK to join their child. Parents are simply required to "financially support yourself without claiming public funds".

Parents are being targeted because ministers believe there are increasing numbers of unaccompanied children being sent on small boats to claim asylum in the UK as a way of gaining family visas. Last year more than 5,000 children arrived. The measures are expected to be presented to cabinet ministers before the next election.

Limited plans to cut the number of dependants that foreign students can bring with them have been announced but more substantial measures were rejected by the Department for Education and the Treasury.

There are understood to be concerns in the Home Office that the lower than expected net migration figure last year of 606,000 is likely to make it harder for Braverman to argue for further measures to cut immigration. A Whitehall source said: "Hawkish ministers on this subject will use that to their advantage."

Separately, a government source has said that the Treasury blocked proposals to make it harder for businesses to recruit foreign workers.

Yesterday The Times disclosed that Braverman and Robert Jenrick, the immigration minister, were pushing Sunak to reduce work-related visas, which hit another record high of 488,000 in the year to March. They want to raise the minimum salary thresholds for migrants to qualify for Britain's points-based immigration system from £27,000. A source said: "A minimum salary of £33,000 would be a logical place to raise it to because that's more closely aligned with skilled work, but it's not found favour with the Treasury."

Figures from the Office for National Statistics on Thursday showed that the Home Office was struggling to deport foreign criminals and failed asylum seekers. The number of criminals eligible for deportation but living in the UK has hit 11,769, and 3,708 of them were released from jail more than five years ago.

Honest debate needed, letters, page 30
Equip domestic workforce with more skills, leading article, page 31

IAN FORSYTH FOR THE TIMES



Diana Mahon left teaching after 32 years due to increase pressure and demands on her time

Case studies

Diana Mahon was a teacher for 32 years in state and private schools in the north and south of England and in wealthy and deprived areas (Nicola Woolcock writes). She left the profession in 2019 because of high demands.

She said: "I was initially an infant teacher in socially deprived areas of North Shields and Sunderland. After this I taught in a Montessori convent school, then spent nine years as senior manager with a schools trust in Sunderland."

After moving to Sevenoaks in Kent, she took up a position as head of juniors at a boys' prep school.

She said: "I left in 2019 after deciding to move closer to my elderly mother in the northeast. The move was coupled with an increasing sense that independent teaching, while viewed as brilliant by my state colleagues, was also creaking [because of] increasing special education needs and disabilities which couldn't be met in the state system."

She added: "I loved teaching initially, I loved everything about my career, however the increasing safeguarding load detracted from my teaching and consumed my time."

Mahon's daughter has just left teaching after 11 years, working at schools in west and east London. She said: "My daughter was an outstanding teacher and was straining under the workload."

Another teacher, who taught art and design for 16 years in secondary schools in the northeast, said: " I would love to return to the classroom, but I can't go back until I know that it's a job which won't decimate my mental health."

Behind the story

Rishi Sunak was clear (Chris Smyth writes). "Numbers are too high, it's as simple as that. And I want to bring them down," he said

But while the government is clear it does not like immigration in general, it seems to like most particular types of immigrant. Skilled workers have been welcomed across swathes of the economy struggling with a million vacancies.

It is hardly surprising that teachers will be next. Recruitment and retention of teachers is going from bad to worse — after a blip in applications during Covid, when it was seen as a stable profession.

Unions acknowledge that overseas recruitment "might bring some limited relief to school leaders searching to plug workforce gaps", but the fear is that, as in so many other sectors, immigration becomes a crutch propping up failure to attract enough home-grown talent.

School leaders need only look to their local hospital to see where this could lead. While the NHS has always brought in overseas staff, reliance has accelerated dramatically in recent years as the Treasury has resisted training more British doctors and nurses.

Two thirds of the increase in nurses since 2019 comes from those trained abroad.

This has led to ethical controversies about disrupting fragile health systems abroad.

At the moment foreign teacher numbers are relatively small, but as they increase, schools will have to wrestle with similar dilemmas.

Extra £10k to lure teachers from abroad

Continued from page 1

year and if it proves a success in attracting overseas staff ministers are planning to extend eligibility to other subjects. In 2022-23 only about 400 teachers arrived from outside Europe.

Agencies in countries such as Nigeria are tempting teachers with salaries up to £53,000 and the ability to bring family to Britain. Fewer than half the targeted number of trainee secondary teachers are due to start this autumn. In some subjects it is less than 20 per cent, with biology, history, classics and PE the only areas on track to meet government targets, according the National Foundation for Educational Research.

By May last year there were 2,310 applications to train to be teachers that autumn from applicants outside the UK and EU, out of 78,539 in total. By this month there have been 5,781 applications from the same areas, out of a total of 95,390. Paul Whiteman, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said overseas recruitment "is, at best, a temporary solution".

Bridget Phillipson, the shadow education secretary, said: "Labour will … drive high standards in state schools by ending tax breaks for private schools."

Aashti Zaidi Hai, chief executive of the Global Schools Forum charity, said: "The UK decision to actively recruit from several African countries could set back the education of children on a continent where 86 per cent are unable to read a simple text by the age of ten."

The Department for Education said: "We are actively looking to boost the numbers of qualified teachers."

Quintagram® No 1639

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Tease, taunt (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Much-derided hairstyle (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

3 Make more dense (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

4 Follow-up vaccination (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Underhand activity (4,4)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	B	C	C	E	E	E	F
H	I	K	K	L	L	L	L
M	M	N	O	O	O	O	P
R	S	T	T	T	U	U	Y

Solutions see page 83
Cryptic clues see Review page 53

Bond girl given £1.2m

The actress Eva Green is to receive £1.2 million towards legal costs having already been awarded the $1 million she was to have been paid for the sci-fi film *A Patriot*. Production was halted in 2019 days before filming was due to start, and Green, who starred alongside Daniel Craig in *Casino Royale*, sued White Lantern Film for her fee. At the High Court Mr Justice Michael Green awarded the interim payment towards her costs, which are estimated at £1.4 million.

Name for pilot's grave

The grave of an unknown pilot killed in the First World War has been rededicated after he was identified by a Ministry of Defence investigation. William Hutton, 24, from South Africa, was killed on a bombing raid in Belgium, in October 1917. His grave, at Larch Wood (Railway Cutting) Cemetery, in the Ypres Salient, now bears his name.

British jihadist jailed

A former grammar school pupil from High Wycombe who called himself the "Jihadi hipster" has been jailed for life after three years with Islamic State in Syria. Shabazz Suleman, 27, who disappeared on a family holiday to Turkey, was sentenced at the Old Bailey to at least nine and a half years for offences including preparing acts of terrorism.

Birth defects case fails

Women and children claiming that the hormone pregnancy test Primodos caused birth defects have had their compensation case struck out. The drug was used in the UK in the 1960s and 1970s but withdrawn in 1978. The High Court ruled there was insufficient evidence of a "causal association" between Primodos and defects such as partially formed limbs.

Dion tour cancelled

Céline Dion has cancelled the rest of her world tour because she has stiff person syndrome, a rare disorder which causes rigid muscles and painful spasms. It is often triggered by loud noise, touch or emotion. She said she was "tremendously disappointed" to "let fans down" again, having previously postponed the 42 remaining shows twice before.

Heat is cold comfort for flaky ice creams

This weekend the country is set to enjoy its hottest day of the year so far, but anyone hoping to enjoy a 99 with a flake in it may be disappointed (Peter Chappell writes).

Temperatures are expected to reach 24C in some places as fine conditions continue. It would beat this year's record of 23.4C in Cardiff on Monday.

Highs of 24C are possible in southeast Wales and around the Bristol Channel today and tomorrow, Simon Partridge, a forecaster for the Met Office, said.

"We're slowly getting there. Hints of summer," Partridge said.

Anyone needing to cool off, though, may be alarmed to learn that ice-cream vendors are complaining that Cadbury Flakes are now "too crumbly" to stay upright in their cones.

They have noticed a deterioration in the quality of the chocolate since Mondelez International, which owns the brand, moved production to Egypt in 2020.

They have complained of paying "top money" for Cadbury Flakes only for them to arrive broken. Some sellers say they have no choice but to sprinkle shattered chocolate over the ice cream.

John Taylor, who owns C&M Creamery Ices, in Harrogate, told the BBC: "You can't give someone a 99 with a broken Flake. It's embarrassing."

Mondelez said: "We are aware that some customers have received product which does not meet our high standards. This has been addressed following improvements to our production processes, although some prior stock may remain. We are liaising with our customers to support those impacted. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience."

Weather by AI, page 17
Full forecast, page 77

DANNY LAWSON/PA



Scarborough sizzled yesterday but southeast Wales is likely to be hotter this weekend

Three-day forecast

	North			South		
	Today	Sun	Mon	Today	Sun	Mon
	21C (12C)	19C (8C)	17C (8C)	23C (12C)	22C (9C)	19C (9C)

(daily low temp in brackets) Source: Met Office

Post Office says sorry for racist files on its staff

Tom Witherow

The Post Office told its fraud investigators to racially classify potential suspects, including "negroid types", during the company's false prosecution spree.

It later apologised and admitted that the "unacceptable" language, contained in guidance published between 2008 and 2011, was "racist".

Between 1999 and 2015 more than 700 postmasters, the owner-managers who own local post office branches, were wrongly prosecuted for crimes such as theft, fraud and false accounting. In fact the missing money was caused by dozens of bugs in the Post Office's £1 billion IT system.

Internal guidance has revealed that its investigators were asked to categorise suspects as "negroid types", "dark skinned European types", "white skinned European types", documents showed. The other groups included in the report are "Indian/Pakistani types", "Chinese/Japanese types" and "Arabian/Egyptian types", the guidance on how to fill out the covering form for case files revealed. In each case the categories are given sub-groups, for example the list "West Indian, Nigerian, African, Caribbean, etc" appears beside "negroid".

Teju Adedayo, 59, a married mother of three who was given a one-year suspended sentence for false accounting and theft in 2006, said: "It's absolutely disgusting. I cried when I saw this document ... they were collecting this data to obviously distinguish how they were going to treat people. It's unbelievable."

The documents, titled "Guide to the Preparation and Layout of Investigation Red Label Case Files", were published after a freedom of information request by Eleanor Shaikh, a campaigner. "I can only imagine they wanted to create some sort of risk profile for postmasters," she said. "I don't know where they got the term negroid from, or even then how they felt that was appropriate. Why were those classifications needed? They even put a number on the racial descriptions, they wouldn't put the label itself in the documents, and that tells you something."

The documents revealed guidance on how to fill out the covering form for case files, including their name, address, whether they had been suspended and the date they were expected to appear in court.

The Post Office said: "The racist language used in this document was unacceptable. We don't tolerate racism in any form and we're clear that it is no excuse that the document is 15 years old. We're incredibly proud of the diverse backgrounds of our postmasters that make up our branch network." It added the documents were "obsolete".

The 1991 census used the ethnicity categorisations black-Caribbean or black-African, and even in the period from 1971 to the early 1980s the now outdated term "coloured" was used in official surveys.

The Post Office's apology came as another victim of the Horizon accounting scandal died without receiving compensation. The family of Sam Harrison, who ran a small post office in Nawton, North Yorkshire, said she died of ovarian cancer at the age of 54 on May 11. She did not live to see justice, despite two decades passing from when the mother of three, who then retrained as a nurse, paid £3,000 back to the Post Office to avoid prosecution.

A total of 61 victims have died before seeing the end of the public inquiry to get to the bottom of what happened. Harrison was one of the 557 postmasters who fought the Post Office in a group action in the High Court between 2017 and 2019, winning a judgment that proved Horizon was to blame. Her sons are now picking up her unfinished compensation claim. Will Harrison, 33, the eldest of three boys, said: "She definitely remained angry at the Post Office until she died."

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Hunt: Recession risk is worth it if inflation falls

Patrick Hosking Financial Editor
George Nixon Money Reporter

Jeremy Hunt has suggested that the risk of recession would be a price worth paying to bring inflation down amid concerns that mortgage rates are about to rise rapidly.

The chancellor said he was comfortable with the Bank of England raising interest rates further as it struggled to curb rising prices.

Markets expect the Bank of England to raise interest rates from 4.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent by November after inflation fell by less than forecast this week.

Swap rates, expectations of the future Bank of England base rate used to price fixed-rate mortgages, have risen rapidly over the past few days.

Lenders including Nationwide and Leeds building societies, MPowered Mortgages and the private bank Coutts have either increased mortgage rates or pulled deals from sale.

The specialist and buy-to-let lender Aldermore withdrew all its mortgage deals from sale at 6pm on Friday after just four hours' notice "in reaction to market conditions". More lenders could have no choice but to follow suit next week if borrowing rates continue to rise.

Simon Gammon, managing partner at the mortgage broker Knight Frank Finance, said: "It's a bit like when you're on a boat, you go through long periods of sand and then you hit a reef, and we are definitely on the reef now.

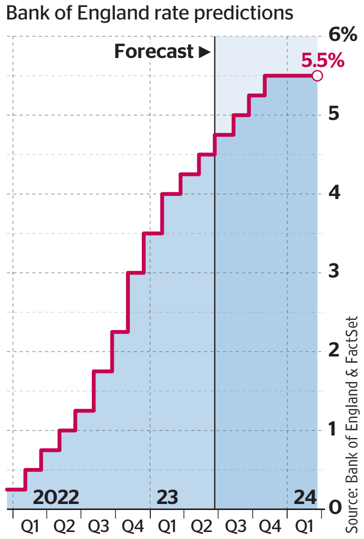
"Lenders do not want to put off borrowers and they need to lend, but they cannot ignore the rise in swap rates."

Hunt was asked on Sky News whether he was "comfortable with the Bank of England doing whatever it takes to bring down inflation, even if that potentially would precipitate a recession". He said: "Yes, because in the end, inflation is a source of instability. If we want to have prosperity, to grow the economy, to reduce the risk of recession, we have to support the Bank of England in the difficult decisions that they take."

He added: "I have to do something else, which is to make sure the decisions that I take as chancellor, very difficult decisions to balance the books so that the markets, the world, can see that Britain is a country that pays its way — all these things mean that monetary policy at the Bank of England and fiscal policy by the chancellor are aligned."

Growing interest

Bank of England rate predictions



Borrowing rates had previously been falling for months amid competition between banks in need of business in a much smaller mortgage market this year, but this trend has reversed since the start of May.

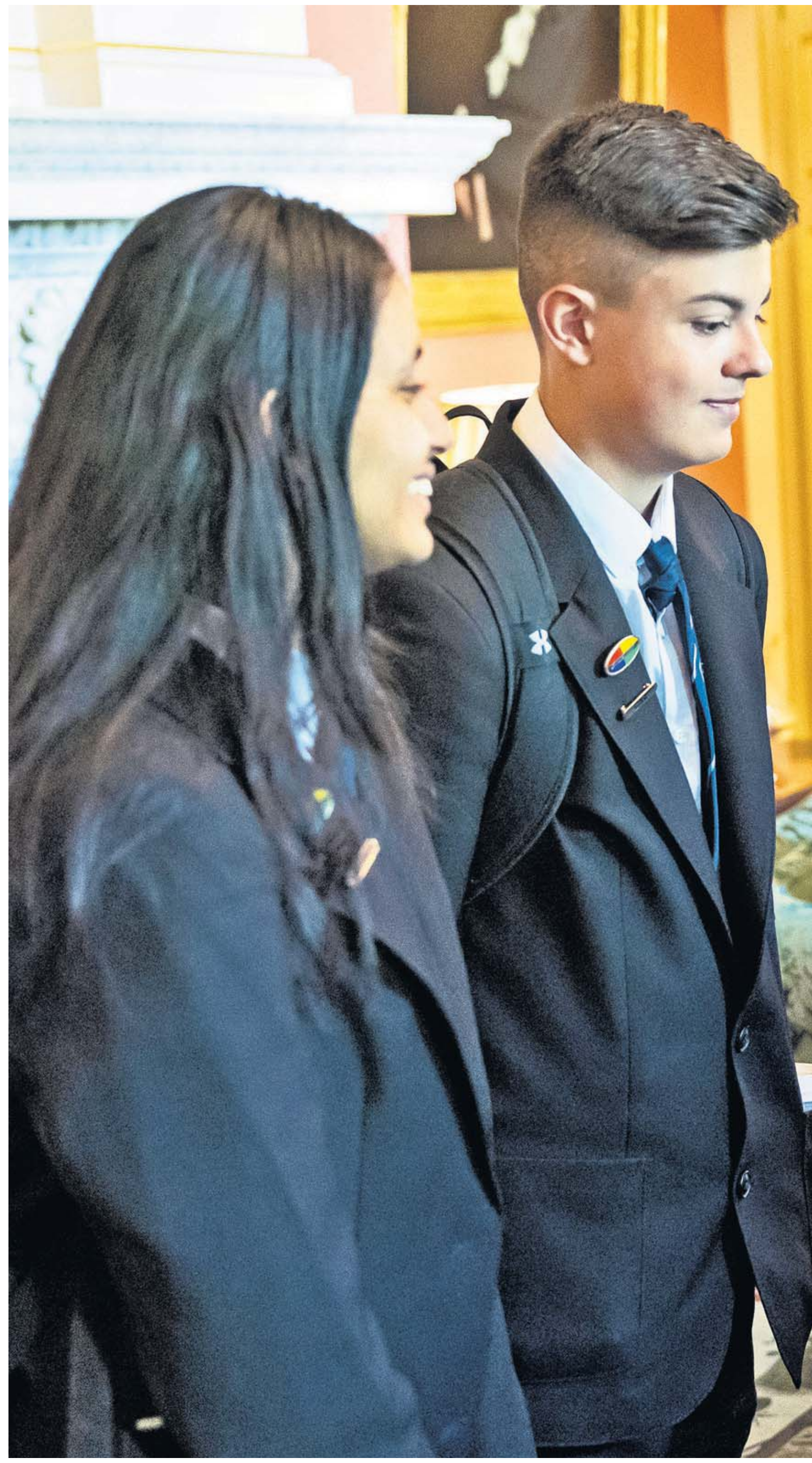
While they are still much lower than after the mini-Budget, when fixed rates reached 6.65 per cent on average, it means the roughly 640,000 homeowners whose mortgage deals end in the second half of this year face a further rise in their repayments.

Between May 1 and yesterday, the rise in the average two-year fixed-rate deal from 5.26 per cent to 5.35 per cent would add £180 a year to a £272,369 mortgage used to buy a family home.

This is on top of a rise in mortgage rates over the past year that has already added £353 a month to the same-sized mortgage. Last May the average two-year fix was only 3.03 per cent.

The hope is that competition will stop the rise in swap rates from being passed on fully to homeowners. But Aaron Strutt, from the mortgage broker Trinity Financial, said: "It looks like we will be in for another period of rate increases if the cost of funding mortgages does not stabilise. Other banks will be considering price hikes next week. It is frustrating because we have only just started to get some normality back in the market."

Bashing the bank, letters, page 30
Short-term pain, page 65



Starting at the top **Akshata Murty, the businesswoman and prime minister's wife,**

Q&A

What has happened to mortgage rates this week?
A slower-than-expected fall in the rate of inflation and increasing "core inflation" that strips out food and energy prices has pushed up the cost of government borrowing. Rates on government bonds, or gilts, affect the cost of fixed-rate mortgages because they are based on future predictions of the Bank of England base rate. Worse than expected inflation data means that financial markets expect the Bank to increase rates further. In response, banks have pushed up mortgage rates. Nationwide Building Society, Britain's second-largest mortgage lender, has increased some of its rates by up to 0.45 percentage points. Other lenders have also raised fixed mortgage rates.

How high will rates go?
There was hope before the latest inflation data that the Bank rate, now 4.5 per cent, was close to peaking because the rate of inflation was falling. That seems unlikely now, with financial markets betting that the Bank rate will peak at 5.5 per cent in November. This is above where they were forecast to hit after Liz Truss's mini-budget last September, which sent borrowing costs soaring. However, yesterday the average two-year fix was 5.35 per cent, according to the financial data site Moneyfacts; last October they reached 6.65 per cent.

Will mortgage rates fall?
Before the inflation-triggered rise of the past few weeks, mortgage rates had been on the way down for months because of fierce competition between lenders. Lenders' need for borrowers may keep a lid on rates rising too much further but they are unlikely to fall unless financial markets calm down. Mark Harris, chief executive of the mortgage broker SPF Private Clients, said: "The markets' assessment of where interest rates are heading has been consistently wrong [for] nine months. They can be volatile and this is likely to be a knee-jerk reaction before markets settle down." However, if the cost to lenders of offering these deals has increased, they will probably have no choice but to push up rates. Ray Boulger, from the broker John Charcol, said: "Once the increased cost of funds has fully filtered through to mortgage rates, any fixed rate below 4.5 per cent will look cheap."

What should I do if my fixed-rate deal is coming to an end?
About 640,000 fixed-rate mortgage deals, the bulk of which were fixed at rates of 2 per cent or lower, are due to end in the second half of this year, according to the Office for National Statistics. If your existing deal is due to end within six months, you should speak to a mortgage broker. You can secure a new deal up to six months before your deal ends but you do not have to take it, so if rates fall between now and then you can benefit. By speaking to a broker you can get an idea of a worst-case scenario and how much more a new mortgage will cost you every month.

What type of deal should I take?
The best mortgage is one that is affordable and gives you peace of mind. A broker will tell you the options. More homeowners opt for shorter-term fixed and even variable-rate deals over two years, which cost more than a five-year fix, hoping that when they end interest rates will be on the way down. It is a gamble and, ultimately, you should not take a variable-rate deal if you cannot afford an increase in repayments.

Detached houses still hot property in race for space

Melissa York

One in three houses bought in the past 12 months were detached as buyers ditched the daily commute to purchase bigger properties.

Detached houses are the most popular type among movers, according to Halifax. Its figures showed that the proportion of buyers choosing a detached home had increased from 25 per cent to 32 per cent over the past year.

The lender puts the popularity down to a desire for more space after pandemic lockdowns.

At the same time, many businesses have adopted a hybrid-working model, where employees go into the office two or three times a week and work from home on the remaining days, allowing buyers to look further afield.

Kim Kinnaird, mortgages director at Halifax, said: "It is also true that detached homes often come as a later step on the housing ladder for many, and when the opportunity arises families will choose a home that gives them space to settle and grow over a longer period; a 'forever home'."

Semi-detached homes accounted for 28 per cent of UK sales in the past year, followed by terrace houses on 21 per cent, flats at 12 per cent and bungalows with 7 per cent. Detached homes were most popular in the East Midlands, where they made up 45 per cent of sales. Buyers in the north of England favoured semi-detached homes, while flats made up the largest proportion in London. Terrace houses, typically bought by first-time buyers in cities, had the biggest fall in popularity as they accounted for 5 per cent fewer sales than a decade ago. Kinnaird said this could be due to poor energy efficiency as buyers consider higher energy costs.

The average house price was £428,467, up 10 per cent on last year and more than double the price paid in 2013. The southeast recorded the highest rise in house prices; buyers in the region typically paid £591,247 to move, 12 per cent more than they did 12 months ago. Prices have flatlined in the northeast where they rose 1 per cent to £255,223.

The average deposit is £150,497, up 47 per cent on 2018, Halifax found. The average age of a mover dropped to 39, a year younger than 12 months ago and two years younger than in 2013.

Is it finally time for PM to focus on the economy? If only …

Frontbench conflict and Johnson's long shadow are adding to his woes, write **Oliver Wright** and **Steven Swinford**

As weeks of simmering cabinet tensions over migration policy peaked, an extraordinary scene unfolded in parliament. Bemused Tory MPs watched Suella Braverman, the home secretary, pursuing Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, down a corridor in the House of Commons as he did his best to ignore her.

"He didn't want to be caught and harangued about his opposition to tougher restrictions on legal migration," a source said. "There is no love lost there at all. Jeremy is very clear that he is not going to sacrifice economic growth to help her appeal to the Tory right."

The scene was a microcosm of two apparently irreconcilable political imperatives represented by Braverman and Hunt: the need to reduce net migration and the need to grow the economy. Both came to the fore this week with worse than expected inflation figures and record migration numbers. Add to that mix the near-total breakdown of the truce between Boris Johnson and No 10, and Rishi Sunak's candid assessment of his premiership on the *This Morning* sofa this week was understandable. "It's hard," he said. "It's incredibly hard."



A truce between Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak is over

The economy and migration may be the biggest policy headaches facing Sunak but it was the outbreak of open hostilities with Johnson that grabbed the attention. They were triggered by Times revelations that the Cabinet Office had referred fresh lockdown-breaking allegations against Johnson to the police.

Johnson, who claims he is the victim of a political stitch-up, is planning to make a series of public interventions around what he considers to be his legacy: Brexit, hospital building, Ukraine and the economy.

"The gloves are off," an aide said. "We don't expect to be reported to the police without serious justification. He is steaming with anger. He is blaming the Cabinet Office leadership of officials and ministers. This all could have been dealt with very easily had they checked with our independent lawyers."

To prove his innocence — Johnson strenuously denies any rule-breaking — the former prime minister decided to release a picture of one of the events in question: a lunch with his mother, Charlotte, and sister, Rachel, in the Downing Street garden on June 14, 2020, when the rule of six was in place.

The picture shows Johnson standing next to Rachel, who is holding his son, Wilfred. Charlotte is next to Rachel, holding Wilfred's foot. There was, however, a problem. While compliant with the rule of six, the guidance stated that people from different households should stay two metres apart. Johnson himself had told a Downing Street press conference on May 28 that it was "critical" that people should follow this rule. The picture was withdrawn.

One senior Tory said fresh evidence on lockdown-breaking events could change the calculation of the privileges committee, which is examining whether Johnson misled parliament.

Beyond such noises, the issue that is really concerning Sunak is the economy. The prime minister and the chancellor are attempting to counter what they see as the false narrative that the UK is an outlier with stagnant growth and soaring interest rates. Their view was boosted by the International Monetary Fund on Tuesday, which said Britain was no longer facing recession this year and congratulated the government for reining in inflation.

By Wednesday morning, however, the mood music was very different. Headline inflation fell from 10.1 per cent to 8.7 per cent, but core inflation, stripping out energy and food prices, rose to the highest level in 31 years.

The fact that inflation is proving to be sticky presents Sunak and Hunt with a significant problem, not least because households are facing the prospect of even higher interest rates as the Bank of England seeks to drive down inflation. Interest rates are forecast to rise to 5.5 per cent in November, causing more pain for mortgage-holders.

Then there is the link to migration, which lay behind the clash between Braverman and Hunt.

Braverman has been lobbying the cabinet to back tough new restrictions. Hunt believes this could result in the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) lowering its growth forecast and, as a result, reduce his headroom for tax cuts before the next election. In March the OBR upgraded its GDP growth forecast by 0.5 per cent on the basis that net migration figures would be 40,000 higher than it had previously assumed.

"The thing that Hunt cares more than anything about is the scope that he has to announce tax cuts ahead of the next election," Torsten Bell, chief executive of the Resolution Foundation, said. "If [the OBR] think that government policies will result in migration being significantly less than they currently do then that could affect the forecast and potentially deprive Hunt of billions of pounds for tax cuts."

For now, Sunak and his team believe there is still time to show progress on the economy (and tax cuts) before the end of the year and hope that if illegal migration can be stemmed by the Rwandan deportations then the sting will be taken out of the legal migration issue. However, some in the party believe Sunak needs to choose between Braverman and Hunt, arguing that voters care more about the economy than migration despite noises from the Tory right.

"Suella has no army," one senior Tory said. "The answer to losing 1,000 council seats is not to make more and more strident right-wing speeches. It is precisely the opposite."

Goldfish have better recall than pundits in parliament, Matt Chorley, page 33
My Week, Boris Johnson, page 41



invited secondary pupils from London and Surrey to No10 for a session about choosing a career in business yesterday

Trump and Johnson's dinner date

Henry Zeffman
Associate Political Editor
Hugh Tomlinson Washington

Boris Johnson has had dinner with Donald Trump at one of the former president's golf clubs.

In the week it emerged that Johnson could face two more police investigations over claims of lockdown rule-breaking, he joined Trump at the Trump National golf club outside Washington on Thursday.

A spokesman for the former prime minister said that the discussions were focused on Ukraine.

"Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP met President Donald J Trump to discuss the situation in Ukraine and the vital importance of Ukrainian victory," the spokesman said.

Trump is seeking the Republican nomination to face Joe Biden again for the presidency next year. He has adopted a significantly more equivocal position on the Ukraine war than Biden and Johnson. Asked this month who he thinks should prevail in the war, Trump said that he wanted "everybody to stop dying". He said that he did not think about the conflict in terms of winning and losing, adding: "They're dying. Russians and Ukrainians. I want them to stop dying. And I'll have that done in 24 hours."

Trump has suggested that the United States is giving too much military aid to Ukraine, saying: "We're giving away so much equipment, we don't have ammunition for ourselves right now."

He has also called President Putin a smart guy who has made a tremendous mistake.

Trump was US president for just under half of Johnson's three years in Downing Street. When Johnson became prime minister, Trump memorably heralded him as "Britain Trump". Johnson was eager to forge a strong personal bond in the hopes of striking a US-UK trade deal.

They had clashed in 2015 when Johnson was London mayor. Then, Johnson said that Trump's claim that immigration had produced no-go areas in London displayed "stupefying ignorance that makes him frankly unfit for the office of the presidency".

On his trip to the US this week Johnson has also met George W Bush, another former president, Greg Abbott, the governor of Texas, and Mike Pompeo, who was Trump's secretary of state.

Sunak holds AI talks with Google boss

Steven Swinford Political Editor

Rishi Sunak has met Google's chief executive to discuss the need for "safe and responsible" artificial intelligence amid concerns it could pose an "existential threat".

The prime minister spoke to Sundar Pichai, also chief executive of Google's parent company, Alphabet, about the importance of ensuring the right "guard rails" are in place to ensure tech safety.

A Downing Street spokesman said: "They discussed possible opportunities for industry and international collaboration on safe and responsible AI development and agreed to remain in touch on this issue."

As well as the issues discussed by Sunak and tech figures, jobs are also being put at risk by the rapidly evolving technology.

Last week BT Group said it will cut up to 55,000 jobs by the end of the decade amid plans to shift to AI and automated services.

Whitehall orders to weed out Tories' critics laid bare

Charlie Parker, George Grylls

Government guidance on "blacklisting" is instructing civil servants to scour up to five years of social media posts by guest speakers to check if they have "spoken against government policies".

Scientists, academics, trade experts and an army colonel believe they have been barred from talking at official events because a list of vetting rules is being applied too zealously.

The guidance was drafted by the Cabinet Office to assist civil servants conducting due diligence for diversity events in Whitehall. But it appears to have been misused by departments to determine if potential speakers have shared "adverse commentary" that "would contravene impartiality".

Officials are made to review a "minimum of five to ten" internet search page results for each person, as well as their "social media commentary" over a period of up to five years. Corporate publications and news stories are also assessed to ensure that people and organisations are "not engaged in political or campaigning activities".

The guidance instructs civil servants to "avoid any invitations being issued to individuals and/or organisations that have provided adverse commentary on government policy, political decisions, approaches or individuals in government that could undermine our position on impartiality and create reputational damage".

However, the document also stresses that care must be taken to distinguish between legitimate comments about government policy and "a sustained campaign or personal attacks of a minister or official". If there is "any indication" of impartiality breaching commentary, vetting agents are told to "not engage any further".

The guidance was used to block Dan Kaszeta, a chemical weapons expert, from speaking at a conference sponsored by the Ministry of Defence. He was sent an email informing him that his invitation had been rescinded because "rules introduced by the Cabinet Office in 2022 specify that the social media accounts of potential speakers must be vetted" and he was found to have shared material "that criticises government officials and policy".

A Cabinet Office source said that its diversity guidance appears to have been "applied incorrectly" for the MoD event. In a letter to The Times, Kate Devlin, an expert in artificial intelligence at King's College London, expressed her dissatisfaction at the "opaque rules" by which her invitation to speak at an event on women in technology was withdrawn.

She was deemed a risk "because, among other critiques of policies, I had retweeted a Twitter account parodying Liz Truss. Amusement aside, the undertones are sinister. I am an expert in my field and have given evidence at all-party parliamentary groups and have briefed government officials both here and overseas."

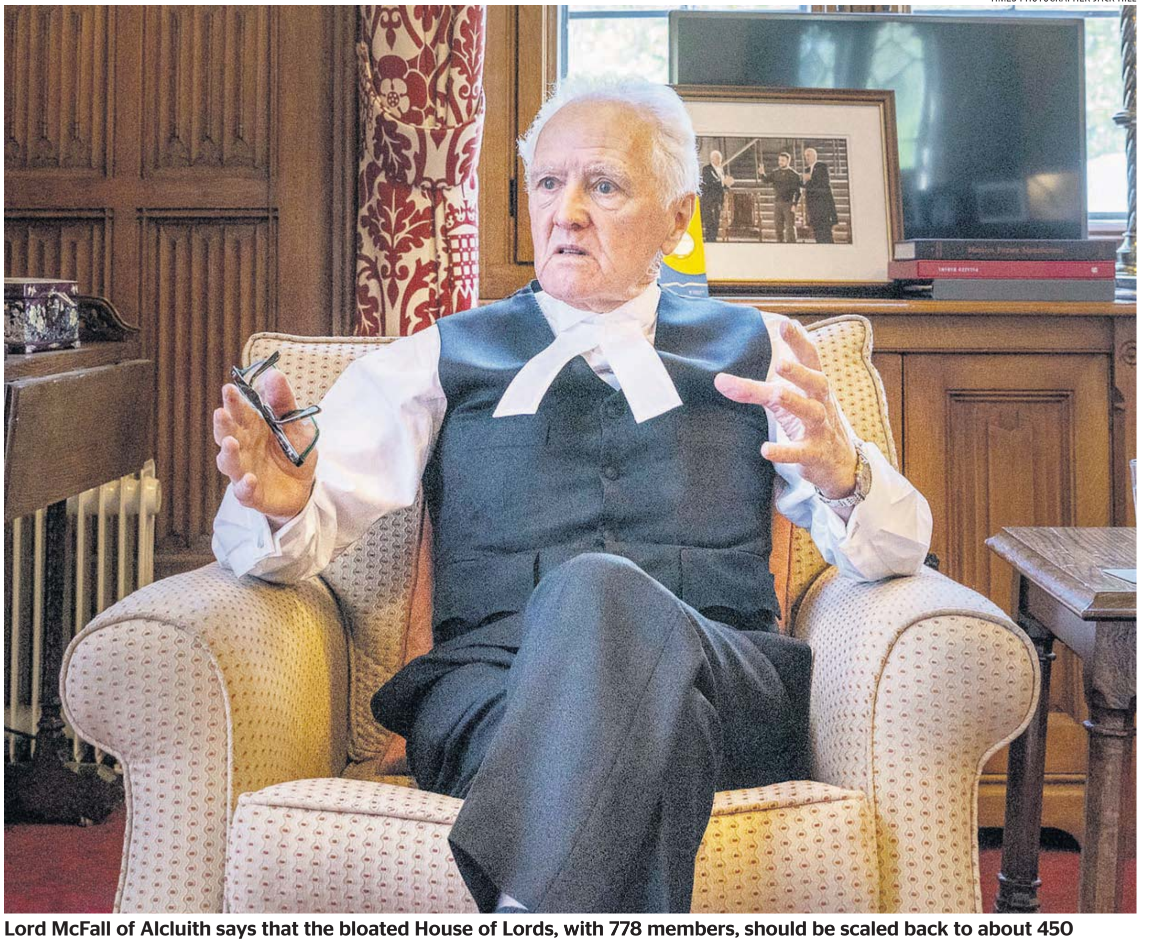
David Henig, a trade expert who worked at the Department of International Trade until 2018, believes he has fallen foul for his criticism of government policy on Twitter. He said he two people within the department told him he is "on the blacklist" and that "your Twitter is being monitored". He claims to know of at least four other experts and writers in a similar position.

Philip Ingram, a retired colonel, said that he had been "disinvited" from events affiliated to the MoD for his "tongue in cheek" tweets about defence chiefs.

The Cabinet Office said it had not been directly involved in any of the cases. A government spokesman said: "Checks are carried out to make sure speakers are suitable for the intended audience and that sessions will be in line with civil service impartiality."

Lords 'needs more experts and fewer silent voices'

The upper chamber's speaker is seeking a major transformation, **Steven Swinford** and **Lara Spirit** write



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JACK HILL

Lord McFall of Alcluith says that the bloated House of Lords, with 778 members, should be scaled back to about 450

Lord McFall of Alcluith has come a long way from his first job doing the weeding for the parks department in Dumbarton. Then, his biggest ambition was to rise through the ranks so he could drive the tractor.

Today McFall, the son of a school caretaker known locally as "John the Jannie", is the lord speaker. He eschews the traditional ermine robes for his interview and photoshoot — he reserves them solely for state occasions because of his strong belief that that the House of Lords is a place of work.

McFall's journey to the Lords has been far from traditional. He left school at 15 without any qualifications and jobbed around until the age of 21 when his girlfriend, Joan — who later became his wife — suggested that he should do something with his life. He enrolled in night school and went on to get a degree in chemistry, before studying for an English and philosophy degree through the Open University.

He became involved behind the scenes in the local Labour party, rising through the ranks to become the Labour MP for Dumbarton (later West Dunbartonshire) in 1987. In Tony Blair's government he served as lord commissioner of the Treasury and Northern Ireland secretary, before going on to become chairman of the Treasury select committee for nearly a decade amid the turbulence of the financial crisis. He was given some advice by the late Lord Peston, the economist, Labour life peer and father of Robert Peston, the political editor of ITV News, before taking the role. "I want you to keep in your mind this slogan: 'These guys, and it was largely guys, do not know their whatever from their elbow.' And the financial crash proved the point."

McFall became deputy speaker of the Lords in 2016, and was elevated to the role of lord speaker in 2021. In keeping with his background, he is adamant that the Lords is too big and is in urgent need of reform.

Next week he will meet Rishi Sunak and raise concerns that the honours system — particularly the resignation honours lists that are in the gift of departing prime ministers — may no longer be fit for purpose.

Between 1997 and 2016, no peer was appointed by a resignation honours list. Since Theresa May resigned in 2016, 35 of the 160 new peers have been appointed through the lists — more than a fifth of the total. Boris Johnson's and Liz Truss's honours lists could mean as many as another 26 peers being appointed, McFall suggests.

"The prime ministers who nominate them leave office immediately and are not accountable for them," he says. "It is clear there is public concern about the political system that we have in this country … one part of that is about the way people are appointed to the House of Lords. I think that it is a subject that merits debate.

"I want to ensure that proper consideration is given to whether the current appointments system is fit for its purpose — the purpose of providing the membership of the House which best serves the country and which can best meet the task of good lawmaking." He is concerned that the balance between politically appointed peers and independently nominated experts is tilting in the wrong direction. The House of Lords appointments committee has been limited to nominating just two expert peers a year since 2012.

"We should have more experts in the House of Lords," McFall says. "That's very important."

Regarding the size of the Lords — there are now 778 peers, second only to the National People's Congress in China — he is clear it needs to be slashed. "It is too big," he says. "We shouldn't have a House that's bigger than the elected House [the Commons] for a start. It gives the wrong impression to people. So the size of it and the comments that are made on the size, you know, are detrimental to the vision that we have for the House of Lords and the work it does." In 2017 the Burns committee, chaired by the crossbencher Lord Burns, recommended that the size of the chamber should be gradually reduced to 600. A principle of "two out, one in" would guide new appointments. Theresa May committed herself to showing restraint in appointing new peers, and numbers began to fall, but none of her successors have followed suit.

> **The resignation honours lists of departing prime ministers are not fit for purpose**

McFall advocates radical proposals for paring back the Lords. The average attendance, he says, is 450 peers a day. He suggests that the Lords could be restricted to a "working chamber" of about that number, with others retaining their titles but having nothing to do with the political element of the Lords. The approach would deal with the hundreds of "silent peers" who retain titles but contribute nothing to the Lords itself. "It overshadows the good work that's undertaken here," he says.

He acknowledges, however, that reforming the Lords will not be easy. Labour has proposed effectively scrapping the Lords and replacing it with an elected second chamber. McFall highlights a recent podcast by Alastair Campbell, Sir Tony Blair's former director of communications, who described Lords reform as "ball-breaking".

"I remember Alastair Campbell, I think it was in one of his comments on one of his podcasts or whatever and I can't mention the word he used — do you know the word he used? 'It was the most ball-breaking experience I ever had in negotiation to get rid of the peers.'"

An elected upper chamber, McFall says, would put the primacy of the Commons at risk and could lead to legislative gridlock. "[If] I'm elected for a second chamber, then I would feel equal in stature to somebody selected along the road as a result of that," he says. "With a drive for equal status … one has got to be very careful how that's managed."

The system by which a handful of hereditary peers can elect representatives to sit in the House is indefensible, he says. "Certainly hereditary by-elections should come to an end. It's an absurd element of the House of Lords. You know, we could have the situation where you have a member who's appointed and … [they are asked] 'Were you elected?' and they say no. And then they go to the hereditary one and they say, 'Were you elected?' and they say yes. 'What was the size of your electorate?' 'Three.'"

The honours system must be made fit for purpose, leading article, page 31





PETER MACDIARMID/LNP; STEPHANIE LECOCQ/REUTERS

Just Stop Oil slow-marched through London. The calm scenes are in contrast to the police's tougher stance with anti-oil protesters in Paris, far left, yesterday

Police told to get tough like France on protests

Senior police officers face pressure to crack down on disruptive protests after activists targeted the Chelsea Flower Show and slow-marched through central London (Jonathan Ames and Matt Dathan write).

Backbench MPs said that the British public was "fed up to the back teeth" with the activities of various groups and that the police should use beefed-up legislation to prevent disruption by mirroring some of the methods used in France.

Three activists from Just Stop Oil were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage after spraying orange powder over one of the exhibits at the flower show in west London this week.

Yesterday Chris Packham, the broadcaster and naturalist, was on hand to support protesters as they slow-marched along the Strand in central London.

The broadcaster, a supporter of Just Stop Oil, attended the protest the day after he won a libel case against staff at Country Squire Magazine, who had accused him of making a fraudulent appeal for donations for a charity.

The judge awarded Packham £90,000 in damages. Scenes of disruption in London contrasted sharply with the approach of the authorities in France, where police have curbed renewed protests by the group known as yellow vests.

Philip Hollobone, the Conservative MP for Kettering, said: "People are fed up to the back teeth with Just Stop Oil disrupting traffic and stopping people going about their ordinary lives."

Hollobone noted that parliament had recently given the police enhanced powers in the Public Order Act 2021, which was passed just before the King's coronation. "Everyone wants to see swifter action by the police now they've got these new powers. If they can do it in France, why can't they do it here," he added.

French police can use notoriously tough tactics against protesters.

At the London protest Packham gave a speech that praised the two Just Stop Oil protesters who were jailed last month for scaling the Dartford Crossing bridge last year. The BBC would not comment on whether the *Springwatch* star was breaching its impartiality rules.

Additional reporting by Seren Hughes and Charles Bremner

Schofield admits affair with a younger colleague and quits ITV

Ben Ellery
Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Phillip Schofield will never work for ITV again after confessing to an affair with a much younger male *This Morning* employee while still married.

Schofield, 61, called to an end his two-decade career with the broadcaster as he admitted to lying about the relationship, which he said was "unwise but not illegal". At the time of his affair, Schofield was still married to his wife of 30 years, Stephanie Lowe, with whom he has two daughters.

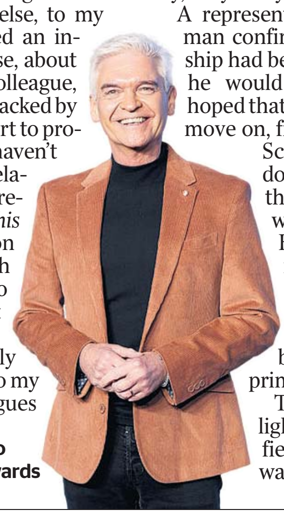
His agent, YMU Group, also cut ties with the presenter after 35 years.

"I did have a consensual on-off relationship with a younger male colleague at *This Morning*," he said in a statement.

"Contrary to speculation, whilst I met the man when he was a teenager and was asked to help him to get into television, it was only after he started to work on the show that it became more than just a friendship. That relationship was unwise, but not illegal. It is now over. When I chose to come out I did so entirely for my own wellbeing.

"Neither I nor anyone else, to my knowledge, has ever issued an injunction, super or otherwise, about my relationship with this colleague, he was never moved on or sacked by or because of me. In an effort to protect my ex-colleague I haven't been truthful about the relationship. But my recent, unrelated, departure from *This Morning* fuelled speculation and raised questions which have been impacting him, so for his sake it is important for me to be honest now."

He added: "I am painfully conscious that I have lied to my employers, to my colleagues and friends, to my agents, to the media and therefore the public and most importantly of all to my family. I am so very, very sorry."



Phillip Schofield was due to present the British Soap Awards

A representative for the younger man confirmed that the relationship had been legal. Schofield said he would not name him and hoped that he and his family could move on, free from intrusion.

Schofield, who stepped down from the ITV show this month amid a feud with fellow presenter Holly Willoughby, has now resigned. He had been due to present the British Soap Awards on June 6 and had also been promised a new primetime series.

The revelations came to light a week after Schofield's brother, Timothy, was jailed for 12 years for sexually abusing a teenage boy. During the trial it emerged he had told his brother that he had watched pornography with the victim. Willoughby is thought to have been dismayed that Schofield did not tell her about the trial.

An ITV spokesman said: "We are deeply disappointed by the admissions of deceit made by Phillip Schofield. The relationships we have with those we work with are based on trust. Phillip made assurances to us which he now acknowledges were untrue and we feel badly let down. We accept his resignation from ITV and therefore can confirm that he will not be appearing on ITV as had previously been stated."

Mary Bekhait, YMU group chief executive, said:"Talent management is a relationship based entirely on trust. This week, we have learnt important new information [that] contradicted what Phillip had previously told YMU, as well as the external advisers we had brought in to support him."

Let them eat pheasant, TV farmer says

Jack Blackburn

With food costs rising ever higher, the quality of diet is dropping ever lower, especially for the poor. However, Britain's favourite farmer may have the answer: let them eat pheasants.

Gareth Wyn Jones, who is best known for his role in the BBC One show *The Family Farm*, told the Hay Festival that spare game from shoots should be donated to food banks in an attempt to help vary the food consumed by the worst off.

"We've got a lot of shoots in this country that produce a lot of food and that food I don't think is being used right," he said. "We could be using these pheasants to feed food banks, to go back into inner cities".

Research has highlighted the clear lack of food variety in the diets of the urban poor. A 2021 paper for the International Journal for Equity in Health said that they have an "increased risk of consuming unhealthy and energy dense foods associated with a higher prevalence of overweight and obesity".

It also showed that "urban poverty was found to increase the chances of chronic undernutrition".

Pheasants and other game birds would bring great nutritional benefits. They are obviously rich in protein, but also have high levels of vitamin B6, iron and selenium. Wyn Jones also suggests that it can be easily combined with vegetables in a stir fry.

Wyn Jones said that the era of cheap food has created issues that must now be addressed. "Cheap food comes at a cost: at a cost to the environment, at a cost to the animal, and it comes at a cost to the farmer," he added.

Fraud squad website downed by pro-Russian hackers

Mark Sellman
Technology Correspondent

Pro-Russian hackers have taken the Serious Fraud Office's website offline in a cyberattack.

A group called NoName flooded the site with traffic or requests until it crashed from a distributed denial of service (DDOS) attack.

The SFO said no data had been breached and the organisation was otherwise operational. Its caseload does not feature any prominent Russians but it may have been targeted as an arm of the government.

NoName also said on its Telegram channel that it had targeted the websites of the Local Government Association and Biggin Hill airport but both appeared to be operational.

The so-called "hacktivists" have been conducting attacks on Ukraine and Nato organisations since the war began and have been recruiting volunteers with rewards of 80,000 roubles (£815) for successful operations. Yesterday they targeted the websites of the Supreme Judicial Council of Italy and the Danish ministry of finance.

The group posted a link saying Denmark and the Netherlands were due to start training pilots to fly F-16 jets and warned: "Better pay attention to security holes in your government sites."

A blog post from Sentinel Labs, which provides monitoring technology, in January said that the group's activity on the Telegram app "makes it clear that the group considers itself a top-tier Russian threat actor when in reality the impact of their DDoS attacks is short-lived disruption with little to no wider consequence". It concluded: "What this group represents is an increased interest in volunteer-fuelled attacks, while now adding in payments to its most impactful contributors."

News Everest anniversary

Hillary and Tenzing arrived at

The mountaineers both knew credit should be shared for their historic feat seven decades ago, **Jack Malvern** reports

Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were of one mind on the question of who first reached the summit of Everest. The men, tethered to one another by rope and a bond of trust, arrived together in a team effort. That, to them, was all that mattered. It was only after they returned from the mountain that it became a controversy that threatened to overshadow their achievement.

Their feelings about their feat, at 11.30am on May 29, 1953, are recorded in a handwritten note that had been thought lost but which has re-emerged in time for the 70th anniversary of their historic climb.

Jamling Tenzing Norgay, 58, Tenzing's son, discovered the document while going through his father's boxes and intends to make it available to the public in a museum in Darjeeling, northern India.

"While climbing to the summit of Everest on May 29, 1953, sometimes I and sometimes Hillary was in the lead," Tenzing dictated on June 20, 22 days after his ascent. "We reached the summit almost together in the final ascent and I planted the flags of Nepal, Britain, India and the United Nations on the summit, while Hillary took photos."

The same document features Hillary's handwritten declaration, dated June 22, which stated that "as we climbed upwards to the South Summit, first one and then the other would take a turn at leading".

He continued: "We crossed over the South Summit and moved along the summit ridge. We reached the summit almost together."

Although the climbers hoped that this would be the end of the matter, both were dogged by questions as to which of them first placed their boot on the topmost point until Tenzing lost patience. In 1955 he told his biographer that he saw it as "a foolish question [whose] answer means nothing" but he wished to put an end to the matter.

"The rope that joined us was 30ft long, but I held most of it in loops in my hand, so that there was only about six feet between us. I was not thinking of 'first' and 'second'. I did not say to myself, 'There is a golden apple up there. I will push Hillary aside and run for it.' We went on slowly, steadily. And then we were there. Hillary stepped on top first. And I stepped up after him."

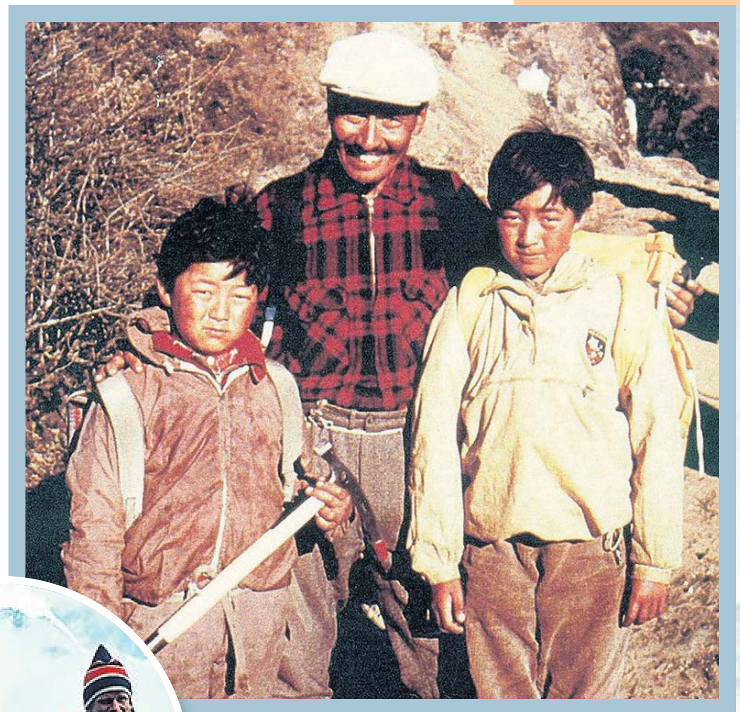
Hillary later confirmed that he had been ahead in the final moment of ascent. "It is so unimportant that we never think of it," he wrote to his fiancée, Louise Rose.

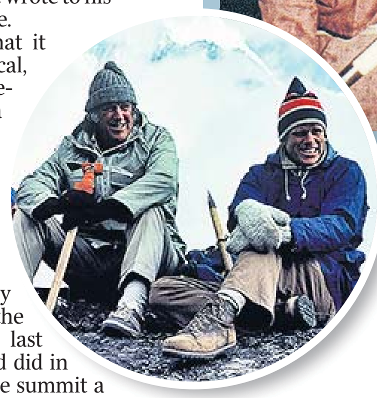
He bemoaned that it had become political, with agitators in Nepal, India and China urging Tenzing to say he had reached the summit first and dragged the exhausted New Zealander up to join him.

"Actually," Hillary wrote, "I did all the leading for the last couple of hours and did in actual fact reach the summit a rope length ahead of Tenzing."

The sons of both men told The Times that they believed their fathers arrived simultaneously.

Jamling Tenzing, speaking from Base Camp, 3,485m below the summit, said that the summit was large enough for several people to arrive at once. "There's no one point on the summit where there's a line [marking the top]. Nine people can hold hands and walk together. My father got fed up. He wanted to get it over with. He said: 'Hillary did it. Now leave me alone.' But they did it together. They were on one rope."





Above: Tenzing Norgay with his sons Jamling, left, and Norbu. Left: Edmund Hillary with his son, Peter. Below: A cup of tea after the historic climb



Peter Hillary, 68, said that there was no doubt in his mind. "They did it together. That had been their agreement. They were an outstanding team to [reach] the top of the world.

"There was a lot of pressure on them after the climb. Some aspects of it were a little unpleasant because they were a team who had all worked together. The conjecture tarnished the experience."

Both sons are taking part in Everest 70, a programme of events involving charities including the Himalayan Trust and the Tenzing Norgay Sherpa Foundation. They will take part in events including the opening of the Sir Edmund Hillary Visitor Centre in Khumjung and the opening of the Tenzing Norgay Sherpa Heritage Centre in Namche Bazaar.

Jamling Tenzing said that Sherpas had not considered climbing the mountain, known locally as Chomolungma, until the arrival of British mountaineers, but his father was different.

"Since he was a child he had this dream, looking up at the mountain. He used to take care of his family's yaks. He would lie down and wonder, 'What is this mountain so high that no birds can fly over?' Something kept drawing him towards the mountain."

Although early British climbers often saw themselves through an imperial lens, Jamling Tenzing said that his father was treated as an equal.

"Some of those feelings that people had — India was under the British so British are the sahibs … my father didn't feel any of that, and Hillary didn't either. John Hunt, the expedition leader, invited my father not to be a porter but as a member of the team."

He added that the legacy of the expedition was overwhelmingly positive, with 60,000 tourists arriving each year. "Sherpas are doing well economically. There are western influences, but we continue to maintain our culture."

He warned, however, that visitors must respect the hostility of the mountain. "If you're not fit enough, you die, or get sick. It takes seven Sherpas to bring that person down. You're not just risking your own life."

For The Times, reporting the news of the historic moment fell to Jan Morris, who as James Morris was the only correspondent attached to the expedition. Morris, sustained by lemonade and yak pie, combined writing skill with "nasty cunning" to get the scoop off the mountain to appear in print on the morning of the coronation of Elizabeth II.

Morris, who was 27 at the time and died in 2020, was concerned that reporters dispatched by the Daily Mail, The Daily Telegraph and Reuters would spoil the exclusive by intercepting his messages.

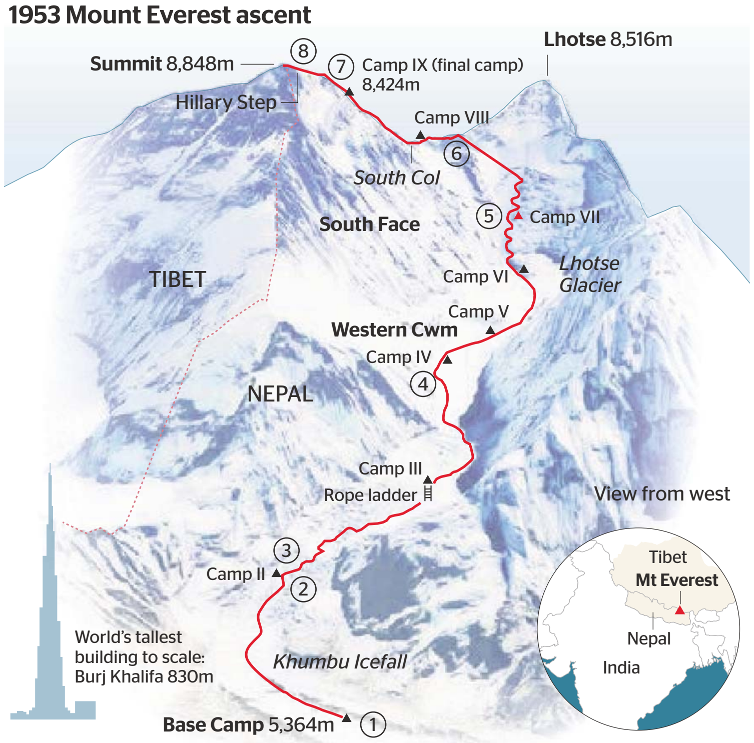
He devised one code but abandoned it over fears that Indian wire operators would refuse to transmit gibberish.

"I therefore, with a certain nasty cunning, composed a new cipher in which coded messages looked as if they were not coded at all," Morris reflected in an article for the Times house journal. "Thus the code phrase for 'Everest climbed' was 'Snow conditions bad'; the phrase meaning 'Hillary' was 'Advanced base abandoned', and that for Tenzing 'Awaiting improvement'."

When Hillary and Tenzing returned to camp, with Hillary announcing they had "knocked the bastard off", Morris interviewed the New Zealander while



1953 Mount Everest ascent



1. **April 12, 1953:** Eleven tons of supplies carried 13 miles from Thyangboche by 450 porters reach Base Camp
2. Edmund Hillary earns respect early in the expedition by leading a team to prepare a track through the Khumbu Glacier
3. Rest station abandoned because of alarming glacial movements
4. Up to 30 men live in a tent village while supporting the assault parties
5. Fellow climbers Tom Bourdillon and Charles Evans ascend to 7,315m
6. Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay bring supplies up from Camp IV to Camp VIII before returning
7. **May 26:** Bourdillon and Evans reach 8,748m (100m short of summit). Exhausted and facing a lack of oxygen supply if they continued, they decided to turn back
8. **May 29:** Hillary and Tenzing Norgay set out early and from a higher camp than Bourdillon and Evans. They climb a rocky spur, later known as the Hillary Step, before reaching the highest point on Earth at 11.30am

summit together, say their sons

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY/GETTY IMAGES



Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay's entourage included just one reporter — from The Times. The scoop was protected using code words

he was eating a restorative omelette. "I shall never, as long as I live, forget the transformation that overcame the camp when the summit party appeared and gave us the news of their victory," Morris recalled. "It was a moment so thrilling, so vibrant, that the hot tears sprang to the eyes of most of us."

The journalist then set off, stumbling through a maze of ice cliffs that cost him his toenail. "I stubbed my toe on an iceblock at the bottom and spent a moment or two cursing creation in general and the foreign department of The Times in particular."

Exhausted, he and a fellow member of the expedition reached Base Camp after nightfall. "I rumbled into my sleeping bag and typed out a code message to tell the world that the mountain had been climbed."

Two runners were dispatched: one to an Indian government outpost that would telegraph the message, a second to Kathmandu with a more elaborate version of the story. Morris's message arrived at 4.14pm on June 1, prompting the foreign editor to scribble a note to read to the editor at a news conference: "Climbed 29 May. Hillary Tenzing — All well."

Morris recalled that "only in my craziest dreams had I supposed that the news from Everest could break quite so timely in London". When he heard over the radio that the Queen had learnt of his dispatch, he rejoiced.

"I leapt out of my tent in my tattered old shirt and holed socks, bearded and filthy, and shouted to my Sherpas … 'OK, sahib,' the Sherpas shouted back. 'Breakfast now?'"

Tenzing, who died in 1986, recalled in 1955 that some of his countrymen would be disappointed by his assertion that Hillary was a step ahead at the summit. However, he added: "If it is a discredit to me that I was a step behind Hillary, then I must live with that discredit. But I do not think it was that. Now the truth is told. And I am ready to be judged by it."

Hear a live interview with Edmund Hillary's son Peter, from the foothills of Mount Everest, on Times Radio with Carole Walker on Monday, 10am



James Morris, later Jan, used "nasty cunning" to get the story into print

Everest was a team effort, leading article, page 31

The rockface has changed, but wonder can never be truly tamed

Tom Whipple Science Editor
Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

The rock face in front of Edmund Hillary, he later said, "might have been an interesting Sunday afternoon problem" if he had come across it in the Lake District. A few hundred metres from the top of Everest, higher than anyone had ever been, it was rather more than "interesting".

To his right, "great contorted cornices, overhanging masses of snow and ice, stuck out like twisted fingers over the 10,000ft drop of the Kangshung Face", he wrote. To his left was another, equally forbidding, face.

The success of the expedition relied on him finding a way up the "smooth and almost holdless" 40ft slab of rock on the ridge between them. Panting, exhausted, he wedged himself into one of those cornices, hoping it wouldn't fall off, and gave a last heave. At last, the summit was in sight.

Sixty years on, in 2013, the Hillary Step, as it became known, was still dangerous. By this stage though, Everest was big business. Every year on the shifting, fracturing, Khumbu icefall at the base Sherpas bolted and maintained a system of ladders — some losing their lives in the process. Every season on the slopes above, teams fixed many kilometres of ropes.

The Sherpas banked caches of oxygen, ferried supplies to the higher camps. Then, when the mountain was ready, experienced guides helped often inexperienced, normally wealthy, clients — who had paid more than £30,000 to be here — to stand on the sacred spot that first saw human footprints on May 29, 1953.

The Hillary Step was dangerous, by now, less because of the climbing than because it was a bottleneck. It was here where, on summit days, mountaineers queued, sometimes for hours, to traverse the last great obstacle. This was the "death zone", the altitude at which oxygen levels are insufficient to support human life for more than a short period of time. It delayed them, in a place where delay was deadly.

And 70 years on? It is gone. During the 2015 earthquake, the Hillary Step crumbled. It was, for some, difficult not to see the symbolism. Everything else had been done to smooth the path, so why shouldn't geology help? On the roof of the world, Atlas had shrugged.

Everything today is lighter, sleeker and more reliable. Today climbers can rely on composite alloys in their ice axes, Gore-Tex in their jackets and lightweight poles in their tents. Their kit lists contain a lot less in the way of Kendal Mint Cake and chutney, a lot more in the way of energy gels. Unlike the 1953 expedition they don't need a team of 400 to get three tonnes of supplies on to the start of the route.

Not everything is easier. One aspect that has become less so is the weather. Traditionally, climbers have ascended in two seasons, May and October. Duncan Quincey, professor of glaciology at the University of Leeds, said that climate change means these weather windows are becoming sketchier. So too is the ice below.

"There's much more bare rock exposed these days compared to back then," Quincey says. "The ice would have been maybe 40, 50, even 60 metres higher in some places, particularly around Everest base camp."

Seventy years ago, Tenzing Chogyal's grandfather climbed Everest with Hillary. Kanchha Sherpa, who worked as a porter on the 1953 expedition and is the team's last surviving member, has seen the area's environment transform. "My grandfather, if you talk about climate change, the first thing he will always say is the amount of snowfall that used to be there is not there any more. That the mountains used to be white, so pretty," said Tenzing, who works as a glaciologist at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

Today, one of the main trekking routes has to be redirected every year to bypass a growing amount of meltwater ponds, ice cliffs and extreme slopes.

But, at least in the grumblings of the grizzlier end of the climbing world, climate change is not the degradation that really rankles. For many, the mountain — and by extension mountaineering — has in some sense been disrespected.

When Hillary passed through Namche Bazaar, the last village before base camp, he lamented that they had just had a radio installed. "Namche has lost all interest for me," he concluded in his diary, "with the onrush of civilisation."

Despite this "civilisation", it would take three days for the message of his success to reach the outside world. These days, Namche has internet cafes and Irish bars ("Good craic, good booze," promises one). You can stream your conquest of Everest instantaneously from the summit.

It would take 40 years for the first 500 people to reach the top. Last year, that many (and 200 more) made it in a season. Today, "proper" climbers grouch, there are people helped up Everest who wouldn't know what to do if you put them on the north face of Ben Nevis in winter.

Everest is easier. Everest is busier. In climbing lore, Everest is also demeaned somehow, desecrated even.

It is not a new complaint. When the first messages came through for Hillary and Tenzing, most were congratulatory, praising the climbers, praising Britain (ignoring the slight inconvenience that the "British" expedition put a New Zealander and Nepali on the top), praising the new Queen. Not, though, the message from the French. "Sentimentally speaking, mountain climbing is veritably decapitated," said the head of their mountain rescue committee.

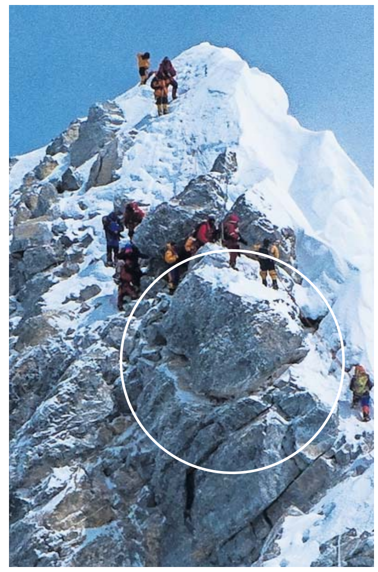
Criticisms can be overdone. Stand in the great rocky amphitheatre at base camp — higher than Mont Blanc — and a great jagged wall of ice and rock stretches up to the sky. Then, it is impossible to view Everest as being anything so crass as conquered.

It is a mountain the height of eight Snowdons, and over the whole year it gets the same number of visitors as Snowdon does on a wet Tuesday in May. When those 500 or so do stand on the final approach, waiting for their turn at the top together, it might feel like they have sanitised Everest, and made it safe, but it shouldn't. That umbilical link of a thin fixed rope is not much at 8,800m. Especially when the wind picks up and the sun gets lower.

If you get sick, no helicopter will get you off — it is too high. If you fall, no stretcher will come for your body — it is too much effort. There have never been more people on Everest.

There are also still, even today, few places in the world where you are more on your own. Everest, for all that has changed, is still serious, still deadly, still unconquered.

The Hillary Step in 2010 . . .



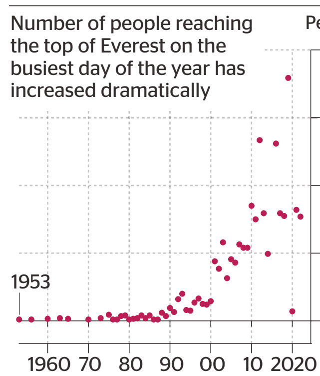
. . . and after 2015 earthquake



The last great obstacle before the summit crumbled away eight years ago, easing the route to the top for the crowds seeking to reach the mountain's peak

Crowded summit

Number of people reaching the top of Everest on the busiest day of the year has increased dramatically



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Police ‘not welcome’ on bike crash estate


ROD MINCHIN/PA
Tributes for Kyrees Sullivan and Harvey Evans, who were friends from childhood

The deaths of two boys has fuelled distrust in a deprived area where riots are nothing new, **Will Humphries** writes

When the Rev Canon Jan Gould began her ministry on the streets of Ely 17 years ago she was warned that the Cardiff estate “has its own law and the police aren’t welcome”.

In her first week her car was pelted with eggs but after conducting a well-received funeral for “one of the criminal fraternity” she was approached by a burly man “covered in tattoos” who asked her which car was hers. “He said, ‘We need to know to make sure nothing happens to it again’,” Gould, 59, said.

When her house was later burgled on a Sunday morning, the word was put out and she was told “don’t worry about going to the police, we will sort it out”.

“It’s that kind of place,” Gould said. “They see the police coming in as upsetting their rule of law.”

A spotlight has been shone on Ely this week after a riot broke out on Monday when locals said two teenagers riding a £4,000 Sur-Ron electric motorbike had died in a road accident because a police van was chasing them.

Kyrees Sullivan, 16, and Harvey Evans, 15, who were not wearing helmets, were killed at about 6pm on Snowden Road after being followed by a police van “at speed” for half a mile.

South Wales police said there was no police vehicle on Snowden Road at the time of the crash and they believed no other vehicle was involved. The van following them had to turn down another street after the boys escaped through bollards before they crashed.

Riot police were called when a group of about 150 people gathered near the bodies and later began hurling paving slabs and fireworks at police and burning cars. There were 15 officers injured. Nine people, aged between 15 and 21, were arrested. The Independent Office for Police Conduct has begun an investigation into the police’s interaction with the pair before the accident.

The disorder came more than 30 years after a similar riot left the streets looking like a war zone. During the Ely bread riots in August 1991 there were three sweltering nights of violence with up to 500 people confronting 175 police officers in riot gear. It began with a dispute between two shopkeepers over the sale of bread but became a flashpoint for disaffected young men.


Rioters burnt cars after the deaths on Monday

One older homeowner, who did not want to be named, said: “Nothing’s changed — it’s just like it was back then. It was Ely then and it’s Ely now.”

Wedged between prosperous Cardiff city centre and the rural Vale of Glamorgan, one of the richest areas in Wales, some of the 15,000 residents in Ely feel forgotten or looked down on.

The estate is among the most deprived areas of Wales in terms of income, employment, health and education. It has more children eligible for free school meals (59.1 per cent) than any other community in Wales and has the seventh-highest proportion of long-term sick or disabled. The 2021 census showed about 10 per cent unemployment among those of working age, around twice the Cardiff average.

Mark Drakeford, the Welsh first minister, suggested that the Tory government bore some responsibility for the riots. “Fundamentally, it seems to me the difficulties of 1991 happened 13 years into a Conservative government and here we are, by chance as much as anything else, 13 years into a Conservative government again,” he told The Guardian. “What is common between them is that it’s 13 years of the systematic erosion of the things that sustain community life.”

He said issues stemmed from benefit cuts amid the cost of living crisis, alongside dwindling public service budgets.

Gould, the vicar of the Church of the Resurrection for 17 years, said Ely was a “complex community for the police to work in”, with some vociferously antagonistic towards them while “a large chunk” wanted their reassuring presence but were “too afraid to speak out”. Officers she talked to in an unmarked car on the estate were “stressed” and told her “we are just trying to do the best job we can”.

Almost no one who spoke to The Times wanted to be identified. An 18-year-old man sitting outside an off-licence, who grew up in Ely, said about half of his peer group had gone into work or college, while the other half were “doing illegal stuff or not working”.

Gould said that the day after the deaths there had been a brief respite from the motorbikes, e-bikes and electric scooters that have become popular with boys on the estate, but normal service quickly resumed.

“The kids started hurling rocks at the buses again yesterday,” she said. “I just hope to God we get through this bank holiday.”

11-year-old hit by officer’s car

Tom Ball Northern Correspondent

An 11-year-old boy is in a critical condition in hospital after he was struck by a police car that witnesses said hit a traffic light and then the child.

The boy was with two friends in Lancaster shortly before 8.30pm on Thursday when the marked Peugeot 308, which was responding to an emergency and had its sirens on, drove down the road. The police initially said that the boy had been crossing the road but this has since been contradicted.

Chief Superintendent Karen Edwards of Lancashire police said that the boy was first taken to Lancaster Royal Infirmary, but moved to Alder Hey Children’s Hospital in Liverpool. His family are being supported by officers and the crash was reported to the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

Sheldon Graham, 49, said he was walking roughly 50 yards behind the three children on the same side of the road when the accident happened.

“I heard the sirens and looked round and I’ve never seen a copper going so fast before,” he said. “The car was literally wobbling from side to side. It then smashed straight into the traffic light and swerved to the left towards the pavement where the kids were standing.”


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PETER MACDIARMID/LNP



Stepping up The Welsh Guards rehearse for the first Trooping the Colour ceremony since Charles became King, on June 17



Lidl named cheapest supermarket in The Grocer's 'Super Grocer 33', published 19th May 2023. The Grocer found the cost of 33 everyday grocery items at Lidl costs £50.30, making Lidl the cheapest supermarket. See more: https://corporate.lidl.co.uk/media-centre/pressreleases/2023/33

Equalities body's trans row shows watchdog at war

Ben Ellery
Oliver Wright Policy Editor

At the start of March the board of the organisation tasked with protecting equality and human rights in Britain held an extraordinary meeting on Zoom. On the agenda was a single item that all of those taking part knew would have profound implications for the balance of equalities law in the UK.

It would mean that someone born a man could never truly become a woman, in the eyes of the law at least. In practical, legal terms it would allow trans women to be barred from single-sex spaces, such as women's hospital wards, and ban them from competing against biological women in sport.

But what they did not fully appreciate was the impact the decision would have on the organisation they were representing, because it has plunged the Equalities and Human Rights Commission into an unprecedented crisis, pitting executives against board members.

Baroness Falkner of Margravine, the chairwoman of the organisation, has been accused of bullying, triggering an investigation that was suspended yesterday amid concerns she is the victim of a witch-hunt by staff opposed to her stance on trans rights.

Her allies say the row is a blatant attempt to bring her down.

To her opponents, Falkner is more interested in doing the government's bidding than protecting the commission's independence. They point out that the Liberal Democrat peer was appointed to the job by Liz Truss, and claim that she always had an agenda: to make the EHRC more pliant to the Conservative stance on trans rights.

"The EHRC is not independent but we have always tried to remain impartial," said one staff member who left over Falkner's leadership. "But when Kishwer [Baroness Falkner] started, she kept referring to Liz Truss … as her boss. It was embarrassing."

Another said: "This is just a continuation of the problem of having a supposed independent organisation whose board is appointed by the government."

The EHRC told The Times its independence was "guaranteed in statute", adding: "We decide our work programmes based on the issues that most concern the British public."

Falkner said: "My only 'boss' is the British public. I was appointed by an independent public appointments committee and two separate parliamentary select committees approved my appointment. We publicly call out the government where we think its legislation is wrong. It is nonsense to suggest I am swayed by the governmen's will."

Allies of Falkner say that rather than accept the right of the board to make policy decisions, staff launched a guerrilla campaign to oust her and get the trans decision overturned.

One group compiled a 40-page dossier, which was passed to Marcial Boo, the EHRC chief executive, accusing Falkner of bullying and humiliating staff. It claimed she had described a trans woman as a "bloke in lipstick" at a board meeting, and she is said to have "rolled her eyes" at staff who expressed concern about the stance taken by commissioners.

It also alleged that staff lacked trust in the board's impartiality and believed that they were making decisions that were "not in the public interest".

Falkner and her supporters reject the claims and said that although she could be "robust", the claims of bullying were manufactured. "I don't think it is a coincidence that these claims were only made after the board made a decision staff didn't like," one said. "This was a blatant attempt to take down Kishwer."

This belief was reinforced when Boo decided to appoint an employment barrister to investigate the allegations rather than deal with the matter internally. Falkner was forced to pay lawyers to represent her, and the board was not consulted on the decision.

But what turned a difficult situation into a crisis was the leaking of the claims against Falkner to *Channel 4 News*. Allies said the report was distorted and designed to make her position within the EHRC impossible, regardless of the outcome of the independent investigation. It also caused about 50 peers to file a complaint to Ofcom.



Marcial Boo's inquiry is on hold; Ian Acheson, right, told of "sensitive staff"

Since then Falkner has taken leave, and other commissioners have successfully demanded that Boo put the inquiry on hold.

After the suspension of the investigation, Falkner released a statement saying the EHRC needed to "stand up for the public interest" by moving the regulator from simply "a source of policy and advice-giving" towards "a sharper focus on actual delivery". She said: "The organisation has been going through a transformation programme to . . . say less, and 'do more.'"

The EHRC said: "We treat allegations of inappropriate behaviour with the utmost seriousness."

Ian Acheson, the former chief operations officer, said he had sympathy for Falkner. "I saw how dysfunctional … the organisation could be. Precisely because of its mission to champion the marginalised, it appeared to attract hyper-sensitive recruits well-versed in the minutiae of procedure and constantly on the lookout for perceived slights."

The EHRC said: "We listen to people inside and outside our organisation whose views reflect the spectrum of opinions."



Baroness Falkner: said to be a victim of a "distorted" report

Foul tactics won't work, Janice Turner, page 29

Royalty to study social justice — with no exam

SHUTTERSTOCK; MATTHEW HORWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor







Leonor, daughter of the king of Spain, attends UWC Atlantic, as does Princess Alexia of the Netherlands, right, with King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima

Young royals were traditionally sent to finishing school to learn etiquette and deportment. Now European royalty and other pupils at one of Britain's leading schools will take lessons in social justice and climate change and help to develop a new qualification — without exams — to be introduced worldwide.

The revamped version of the International Baccalaureate (IB) is being created with UWC Atlantic College in south Wales, the boarding school attended by Princess Leonor, the daughter of King Felipe and Queen Letizia of Spain.

The school, nicknamed "Hogwarts for Hippies", is housed in a 12th-century castle in Llantwit Major, South Glamorgan, and alumni include King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and Princess Raiyah of Jordan.

For the first time in 50 years the directors of the IB are collaborating with schools to create an updated version of the qualification taken by pupils aged 16-19 as an alternative to A-levels. It claims that this will prepare them to transform the world and help them cope with future, real-world challenges, by focusing on four areas: biodiversity, energy, food and migration.

A cohort of 20 pupils at UWC will drop a third of the traditional subjects that are usually studied within the IB. Instead they will spend 300 hours, over two years of study, on the new areas.

The forms of assessment have yet to be finalised but there will be no exams on these subjects. Learning will be project-based, collaborative and designed to tackle "multiple global crises".

IB says it is creating the qualification because there is a growing gap between the education children are receiving and the education they need.

Olli-Pekka Heinonen, director-general of the IB, said that teenagers taking the new diploma would be "uniquely empowered" on leaving school.

Traditional assessment often led to pupils forgetting what they had learnt once exams were over, he said. "The aim of this type of assessment is to strengthen deep learning and understanding, something you learn that stays with you and is part of you. Biodiversity, food, migration and energy are meaningful and attractive to young people. We're looking at these areas through the lens of systems leadership — ie, how it's possible to make change happen."

The school hosts pupils from 80 countries and charges fees of £37,000 a year. It is set in St Donat's Castle, in 122 acres, once the home of William Randolph Hearst, the American newspaper mogul.

Naheed Bardai, principal of UWC Atlantic, said he felt dissatisfied with the state of education today as pupils should be prepared to become leaders of organisations and government in the 2040s and 2050s.

The IB is offered in 5,600 schools in 159 countries.



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AI set to take world of weather forecasting by storm

Mark Sellman
Technology Correspondent

Weather forecasting blunders live long in the memory: Michael Fish and the 1987 Great Storm, Hurricane Katrina and the 2003 European heatwave.

Now hopes have been raised of more reliable predictions thanks to a revolution in meteorology driven by AI. Papers have been released by the technology companies Google DeepMind, Huawei and Nvidia that appear to show impressive forecasting results driven by machine learning.

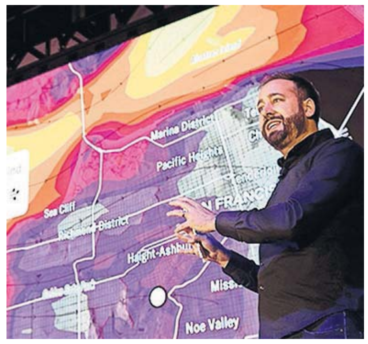
In 1987, during a forecast for the BBC, Fish said that a woman had called in to say that a hurricane was on the way. "Well, if you're watching, don't worry, there isn't!" he blithely told viewers. Had Fish had the benefit of AI, perhaps he would not have been so bold.

During the past few months a quiet revolution has been brewing. Peter Dueben, head of earth system modelling at the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, described Google DeepMind's efforts in particular as "quite astonishing". He said: "It has really surprised the weather and climate community how good those predictions can be in principle. There's a lot happening."

This month Atmo, a San Francisco-based start-up, released what it claimed was the first live global medium-range weather forecast, purely based on an AI model, that was as good as the gold standard. The difference? It is cheaper, faster and learns from its mistakes — and could herald street-by-street forecasts, according to experts.

Traditional forecasts, such as those by the Met Office, rely on physics-based models. That means they solve equations based on the flow of air and moisture and the thermodynamics of the atmosphere. The new AI models are prediction engines based on previous data — and they need a lot of it. Atmo's model uses decades of data that amounts to 30,000 terabytes, equivalent to the memory required to store 15 million films or 10 billion photos.

The AI models are more agile, Alexander Levy, the co-founder of Atmo, said. He added: "Since this model can run in a few seconds, instead of hours, you get the information about the forecast much earlier. I think that is the main breakthrough. The computers necessary to produce a fast forecast would before cost billions of dollars. Whereas this can be done more cheaply or much more quickly, or both, or in greater detail."


Alex Levy, the co-founder of Atmo, says AI is cheaper as well as faster

Cheaper and faster means greater accuracy because you can create a bigger "ensemble" forecast, which is where you re-run the model with different permutations to get a better prediction.

Kieran Hunt, an expert in tropical meteorology at the University of Reading, said that hyper-local forecasting was also on the horizon. He said: "I think, with these AI-based forecasts, we're able to scale up to that kind of hyper-local forecasting where the quality will improve more quickly than I think it would if we stayed along a physics-based trajectory."

Atmo appears to have demonstrated that with a forecast for San Francisco that can predict medium range at the scale of 300m x 300m.

Those wanting forecasts beyond two weeks, however, may be disappointed. "The limit of 10 to 14 days is still almost an impossible wall to break," Johan Mathe, co-founder and chief technology officer of Atmo's co-founder, said.

Five-day forecast, page 77

TMS

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Clever Paddy's cunning ploy

The use of anonymous sources in political reporting, decried by some, is a good way to reveal newsworthy briefing that would otherwise be kept private. However, it has its drawbacks. Nick Robinson tells Politico that after the 2010 election he was thrilled to be given a steer, on condition of anonymity, by Paddy Ashdown about coalition talks between the Lib Dems and Labour. Robinson went on the *Today* programme to tell the nation, not realising that the producer had booked Ashdown to come on straight after. Robinson was being used. "Paddy needed to get the idea out there, and then it had to be deniable," Robinson says. So, after finishing his report, he heard his source utter words he's never forgotten. "I don't know who Nick's been talking to," Ashdown innocently said, "but it's not true."

As we near the 70th anniversary of the conquest of Everest, a story from the Diary archives. We once reported that the artist Charles McCall and his wife rented rooms in their Chelsea house to painters and sculptors. One lodger, though, was not an artist. "In 1954, a New Zealander rented the top floor," Mitzi McCall told my forebear. "He had to leave because he couldn't cope with the rickety staircase. His name was Edmund Hillary."

BRAVERMAN'S PEDIGREE
The Suella Braverman of the 1900s was the 5th Earl of Carnarvon, collector of speeding tickets. "He began to acquire them almost as soon as he bought his first car," says Lady Carnarvon, wife of the 8th Earl. "He was always apologetic to the courts but engaged a barrister to keep him on the road. He didn't want to lose his licence." Before speed cameras, policemen had to time the car between two posts. At one court case, however, the evidence was somewhat imprecise, the police admitting that Lord Carnarvon had simply "disappeared in a cloud of dust".

POET'S INCENDIARY OUTPUT
Pete Brown, poet and writer for the psychedelic rock group Cream, has died. He was a workaholic and adopted Jack Kerouac's method of cutting rolls of wallpaper to fit his typewriter so he didn't have to break his flow in changing sheets. This went well until the night of a power cut, when he had to resort to candles. Still bashing away, oblivious of all but his creativity, Brown didn't notice the paper nearing the flame. "The whole lot went up," he wrote. "I had become a caricature of the Mad Artist."

Darren Johnson, former Green member of the London Assembly, has written a biography of the glam rock Black Country band Slade. He isn't the first politician elected to the capital's government to do this. George Tremlett, a Tory member of the GLC, wrote one on Slade in the 1970s. How cultured, though I'm a bit disappointed that a London politician's book on Slade isn't really about the School of Fine Art.

KISSINGER'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Henry Kissinger turns 100 today. On the day that he was appointed US Secretary of State in 1973, a reporter asked if he preferred to be called Mr Secretary or Dr Secretary. "I don't stand on protocol," Kissinger replied. "Just call me Excellency." Around this time he was dating Jill St John and Robin Renwick, a British diplomat, recalls asking what attracted him to a Bond girl. Kissinger, left, replied: "She has interesting views on foreign policy." Perhaps that's why they called him the Playboy of the Western Wing.



PATRICK KIDD



Ocado's clientele checks out rivals after price rises

Isabella Fish Retail Editor
Andrew Ellson
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

For 15 years the signature, grocery-emblazoned vans drew up to Tim Norton's home, their cheerful drivers dropping off premium supermarket produce at a time of their choosing.

Norton, 70, a business consultant, and his wife opted for Ocado because they were prepared to pay more for superior service.

That remained the case until last summer when, on the hottest day of the year, £150 of food was dumped, an hour early, outside their Bayswater home to swelter in the sun.

For Norton that was the final straw. "I'd finally had enough of their poor service and stroppy customer support and made the move over to Tesco."

Norton's is just one story that speaks to the decline of a once-mighty household brand that appears to be on the brink of falling out of the FTSE 100.

Ocado's crown as the online retailer that keeps the pantries of Britain's middle classes stocked has been slipping.

The tech-driven business, founded in 2000 by three former Goldman Sachs colleagues, thrived during the pandemic thanks to the boom in e-commerce in the lockdowns. At its peak, in 2020, it was valued at £21.7 billion, more than Tesco's £21.1 billion, despite having only a fraction of the UK grocery market share.

However, the online-only retailer, which has partnerships with Marks & Spencer and Morrisons, has struggled since shoppers returned to physical supermarkets after restrictions imposed during Covid ended.

Ocado's partnership with M&S, which took over from the split with Waitrose in 2020, made a £4 million loss in the year to November, compared with a £150.4 million profit the year before, and saw its sales slip by 1.2 per cent — despite M&S itself being on a roll. Although customer numbers had grown during the year, a drop in sales reflected reduced volumes as a result of lower shopping frequency.

The firm's share price has dropped by more than 35 per cent this year. As a result, Ocado could be booted out of the FTSE 100 index next week.

Onlookers suggest the sustainability of the online grocery market post-pandemic had been "massively" overestimated. Other experts believe one of the reasons customers are falling out of love with Ocado is that it is more expensive than other supermarkets.


DOUG PETERS/PA

Ocado, which plummeted to a £4 million loss, has struggled to satisfy some customers such as Tim Norton, right, who has now made the switch to Tesco

The Times compared the pre-pandemic price of a basket of 30 randomly selected goods at Ocado — including own brand and branded goods — with their cost this week and every single item, except a five-pack of limes, had become more expensive.

In total, the cost of the basket went from £65.07 to £84.43, a 30 per cent increase. The biggest single price increase in absolute terms was on a packet of Daylesford organic diced shoulder of lamb, which went from £6.99 to £9.50, a 36 per cent rise. But in relative terms a 170g jar of Colman's English mustard saw the biggest increase, doubling from £1 to £2. Cooks & Co anchovy fillets in sunflower oil was the second biggest climber, with the 50g packet rising 76 per cent from £1.08 to £1.90.

Ocado's average basket size fell to 46 items last year from 52 in 2021, taking the typical value to £118 from £129.

"Customers have been cutting back on the number of items bought, as inflated prices prompt consumers to reduce the number of items in their baskets," Victoria Scholar, an investment expert, said.



She said stiff competition from a raft of supermarket players, including the ultra-low-price-point German discounters, as well as a return to physical shops, have also prompted shoppers to search elsewhere for their groceries.

Ocado has set out plans to improve the overall customer experience including re-engaging "lapsed and occasional customers" with improved services, such as reintroducing "kitchen table" deliveries, which it stopped during the pandemic.

Hannah Gibson, the boss of Ocado Retail, said "great customer service is what we're all about. Secondly, we've got an operating model that allows us to give better customer experience than any other store-based operating model. Our levels are much, much higher than any in-store retailers, and actually they are getting better: 95 per cent of our deliveries are on time and our levels of substitutions are so low. On value, we have also been investing and improving on our price over the last period. I imagine some prices will be higher than they were pre-pandemic, but the whole industry has seen inflation at high levels."

She said Ocado.com's customer base is larger than ever at 951,000 active users — up 14 per cent from last year and 20 per cent higher than pre-Covid levels.

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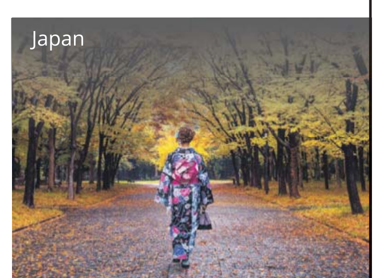


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Hugh Grant phone-hacking case thrown out

David Woode Crime Correspondent

Hugh Grant's phone-hacking claims against the publisher of The Sun have been thrown out by a High Court judge.

However, allegations of unlawful information gathering relating to a burglary at his home, and tracking devices placed in his car, will go to trial.

The actor, 62, is suing News Group Newspapers (NGN) after claiming he was targeted by journalists and private investigators. NGN denies that any unlawful action took place at The Sun. The publisher sought to have claims by Grant and the Duke of Sussex dismissed, having argued that both men had left it too late to pursue legal action.

In a ruling on Friday, Grant was told his claim would proceed to trial, save for the allegations of phone hacking. Mr Justice Fancourt concluded that the actor could have taken legal action sooner because he was aware of it.

During a hearing last month at the High Court in London, Grant claimed he was subject to "burglaries to order". In a witness statement, the actor told of a break-in at his London flat in 2011. He said the front door was forced off its hinges but nothing was stolen.

Grant said a story appeared in The Sun the following day that "detailed the interior of the flat, including the signs of



Hugh Grant claims he was targeted by journalists

a domestic row". At the time, Grant said it was a mystery as to who conducted the break-in as he prepared to give evidence at the public inquiry into press ethics, adding: "I had no evidence that this burglary was carried out or commissioned on the instruction of the press, let alone The Sun."

But Grant claimed he was encouraged to take legal action last year after learning that the burglary was carried out on behalf of The Sun after a conversation with Gavin Burrows, a private investigator.

He said the information "showed, for the first time, evidence that The Sun had targeted unlawful activity at me and my associates directly".

A spokesman for NGN, whose parent company is News UK, the publisher of The Times, said: "NGN is pleased that, following our application, the High Court has ruled that Mr Grant is statute barred from bringing a phone-hacking claim against The Sun.

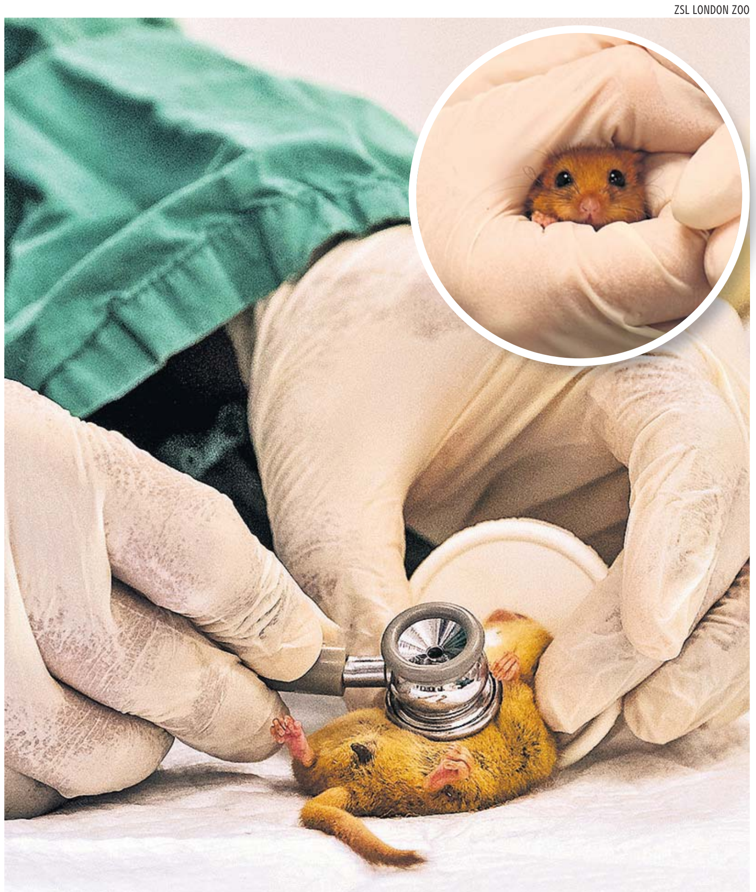
The remainder of his claim, which has been brought following a statement made by [private investigator] Mr Gavin Burrows in 2021, has been allowed to proceed to trial.

"NGN strongly denies the various historical allegations of unlawful information gathering contained in what remains of Mr Grant's claim."

Grant said: "I am pleased my case will be allowed to go to trial, which is what I have always wanted — because it is necessary that the truth comes out about the activities of The Sun.

"As my case makes clear, the allegations go far wider and deeper than voicemail interception." The trial is due to take place in January.

ZSL LONDON ZOO



Small job Hazel dormice get a final check at London Zoo before being released into the wild; 1,000 have been let go across the UK in a conservation scheme

Pair who beat and burnt their baby jailed for life

Tom Witherow

The couple who murdered their baby son in a campaign of "unimaginable cruelty" days after he was returned to them have been jailed for life.

Shannon Marsden and Stephen Boden burnt and beat ten-month-old Finley in a "savage and brutal" campaign of violence, inflicting 130 injuries before he collapsed on Christmas Eve 2020. The once "smiley and chuckling" baby had fractures to his collarbones and thighs, a pelvis broken in two places by "kicking or stamping", and burns, including from a cigarette lighter.

Mrs Justice Amanda Tipples, sentencing, said that neither had "shown any remorse at all" and that they were "persuasive and accomplished liars".

She told Derby crown court: "You both knew that Finley was very seriously ill and dying … yet you deliberately failed to seek any medical help for him and you made sure that he was not seen by anyone that could have rescued him and taken him away from your care.

"He was subject to repeated abuse on multiple occasions. Once the injuries had been inflicted, Finley's daily experience was one of considerable pain, distress and suffering."

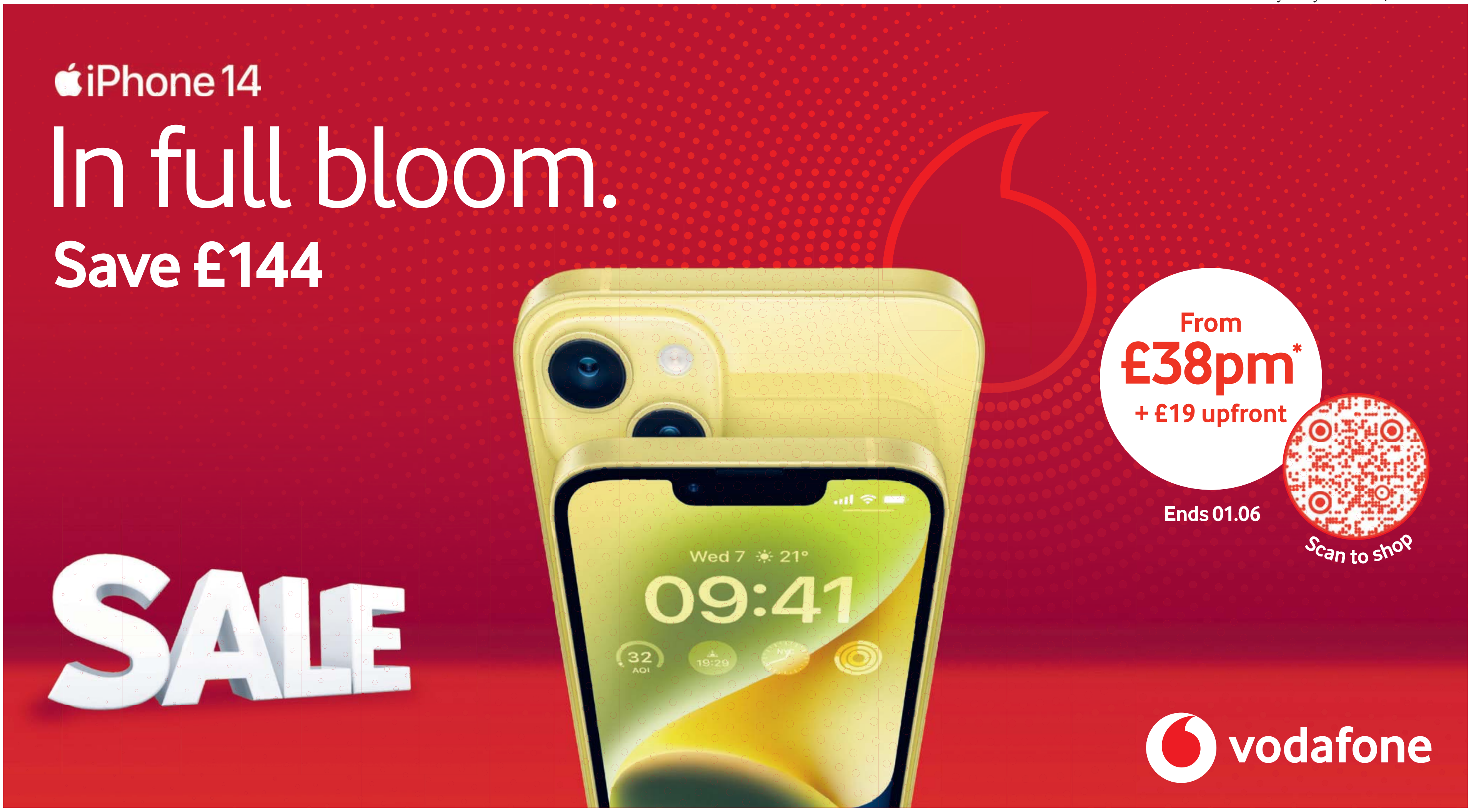
In the last week of his life Finley was "seriously injured and utterly miserable", she told the court, and was no longer able to sit up and play with his toys, or feed himself. The judge added: "By the evening of December 23 he was plainly dying. There was nothing subtle about this at all. It was plainly obvious to both of you."

After Finley's collapse, the pair delayed calling emergency services so they could smoke cannabis and hide their drugs. Post-mortem tests revealed there was cannabis in Finley's blood, showing he had inhaled smoke in the 24 hours before his death.

The pair showed no emotion as the judge sentenced Marsden to a minimum of 27 years and Boden to at least 29 years.

Finley had been taken away from them because of their drug addiction and domestic violence in the home. But in the family court in November 2020 two magistrates returned him to them. He was dead 39 days later.





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News

Boycott by lecturers may hit graduations

Emma Yeomans

Students have been left fearing for their futures amid a nationwide marking boycott by thousands of lecturers in a protest over pay.

Industrial action by the University and College Union is delaying summer assessments at the vast majority of Britain's institutions including most of the Russell Group.

Some universities have introduced changes — or mitigations — to their marking guidelines as a result. The University of Nottingham has said it will use marks for coursework and "derived marking", which looks at a student's track record to predict a final grade.

At Queen Mary University of London, students have complained that external markers hired by the university to fill in for striking staff misunderstood their assignments or were unfamiliar with the topics being assessed.

At Cambridge, which opted not to put any mitigations in place, students face indefinite delays to their graduation, which could result in some losing visas and offers for future work or study.

Bella Cross, a final-year student at Cambridge, began an open letter to her university urging it to work with lecturers to settle the dispute so she and her peers could graduate.

"I was looking forward to graduating, especially with all of our friends. It has been an extremely difficult three years — we've had disruption from Covid in the year where we started when basically no one was legally allowed to socialise. Then we had strikes in second year. And I also had quite a difficult time at uni. I've been in and out of hospital quite a bit and also really struggled with mental health. So I was really looking forward to finally celebrating the achievement."

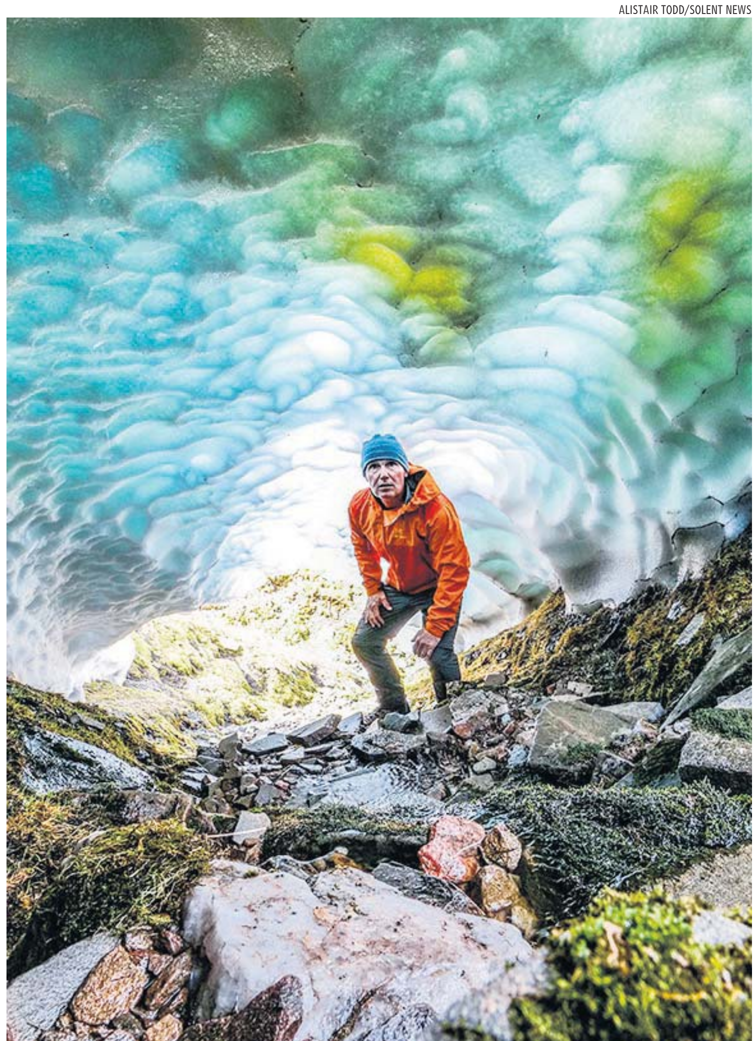
Her open letter called on the university to use its influence to push the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) — which handles pay negotiations collectively — back to the negotiating table, something Cambridge has since done.

Cambridge attempted to bring in mitigating measures to allow students to graduate, but these were blocked in a vote at Regent House, the governing council. The university has now issued a statement in conjunction with UCU urging UCEA to reopen negotiations.

Professor Nicholas Guyatt, a fellow of Jesus College and professor of North American history, said lecturers understood the anxiety the boycott was causing. "I'm the first in my family to go to university. If I told my mum, when I was graduating back in 1995, that I wasn't sure whether it would happen, we would have been mortified," he said.

Cambridge had been particularly badly affected by the national pay negotiations because the cost of living had risen more sharply in what was already an expensive city, he said, leaving staff struggling to get by. He said: "At the moment it seems like [UCEA]'s first strategy is to starve out the staff."

ALISTAIR TODD/SOLENT NEWS



Go with the flow Long snow tunnels form at this time of year at altitudes over 3,000ft in the Cairngorms, when warm streams hollow out the ice from below

Child rapist housed on RAF base

George Grylls Defence Correspondent

An RAF worker who admitted raping a 13-year-old girl is being temporarily housed in MoD accommodation while he awaits sentencing.

Glenn Poyner, 35, pleaded guilty to eight child sex offences against two girls, including four charges of rape, at Telford magistrates' court earlier this month.

Poyner, an air specialist, is expected to be jailed when he is sentenced on August 11 but in the meantime is living at a property at RAF Benson in Oxfordshire, according to the Daily Mail.

The newspaper said that parents in the area were worried about letting their children play outside, citing one mother who said: "I am petrified that this monster will use his last months of freedom to strike again."

Poyner is going through a formal discharge process from the RAF.

The offences took place between 2018 and 2021 across Worcestershire and Shropshire. Judge Peter Barrie, who adjourned the case pending reports, ordered a psychiatric assessment to be carried out and granted Poyner bail until his sentencing.

The RAF said: "We are aware that a service person residing at RAF Benson pleaded guilty to a number of serious sexual offences. The RAF is unable to comment on individual cases, [and will] not offer comment while legal proceedings are ongoing."

Town that wants to forget Madeleine

David Brown Praia da Luz



ALAMY

Praia da Luz in Portugal is booming again and antagonism towards Gerry and Kate McCann has given way to compassion

As the restaurants and boutiques of Praia da Luz prepare for the rush of half-term tourists there is no trace of the tragedy that blighted the resort.

Like the golden beach that is swept of debris twice a day by the Atlantic, the walls and notice boards have been cleansed of posters appealing for information about Madeleine McCann.

There is a sense of relief that a reservoir 30 miles inland is in the spotlight instead of the resort as police led a search operation weeks after the 16th anniversary of Madeleine's disappearance. The search team is thought to have found a "relevant clue" that could finally help to solve the mystery. Items are being sent to Germany for analysis; they include a bra strap, pieces of clothing and plastic objects. Christian Wolters, a prosecutor in the German investigation into Christian Brueckner, said to "not expect anything spectacular" as a result of the searches.

The open anger against the McCann family for associating the resort with child abduction is softening to pity as its tourism industry booms. Teretinha Oliveriea, 51, who runs a jewellers in the heart of Praia da Luz, put her head in her hands in exasperation and groaned when Madeleine was mentioned. "We are trying to forget, not talking about her again," she said. "I have a daughter of the same age as Madeleine, she will be 20 in August, so it was a period that was very sad. I saw everything that happened, the hundreds of journalists, the [McCann] family, the police. We don't want that again. I don't know what happened, this is a safe place. We are very sorry for her parents but we have moved on."



At the Ocean Club where the McCanns were staying in May 2007 the only memorial is a metal grille over the window of the bedroom from which Madeleine was abducted. The bougainvillea is again in full bloom, as it was on the night she disappeared days before her fourth birthday.

In 2007 about 80 per cent of the expats were British. Their numbers have waned, partly because of increasing numbers from Germany, France, the Netherlands and Scandinavia lured by tax breaks.

Annettee Stupp, 47, originally from Essen, in western Germany, sells jewellery from a stall on the promenade. She lives a "van life" moving around the Algarve in a camper van. "I don't know about Madeleine," she said.

Many new residents and visitors have no knowledge of the abduction or the prime suspect, Brueckner, 45. The German sex offender was a "van lifer" who also lived in a farmhouse on the outskirts of Praia da Luz when Madeleine disappeared.

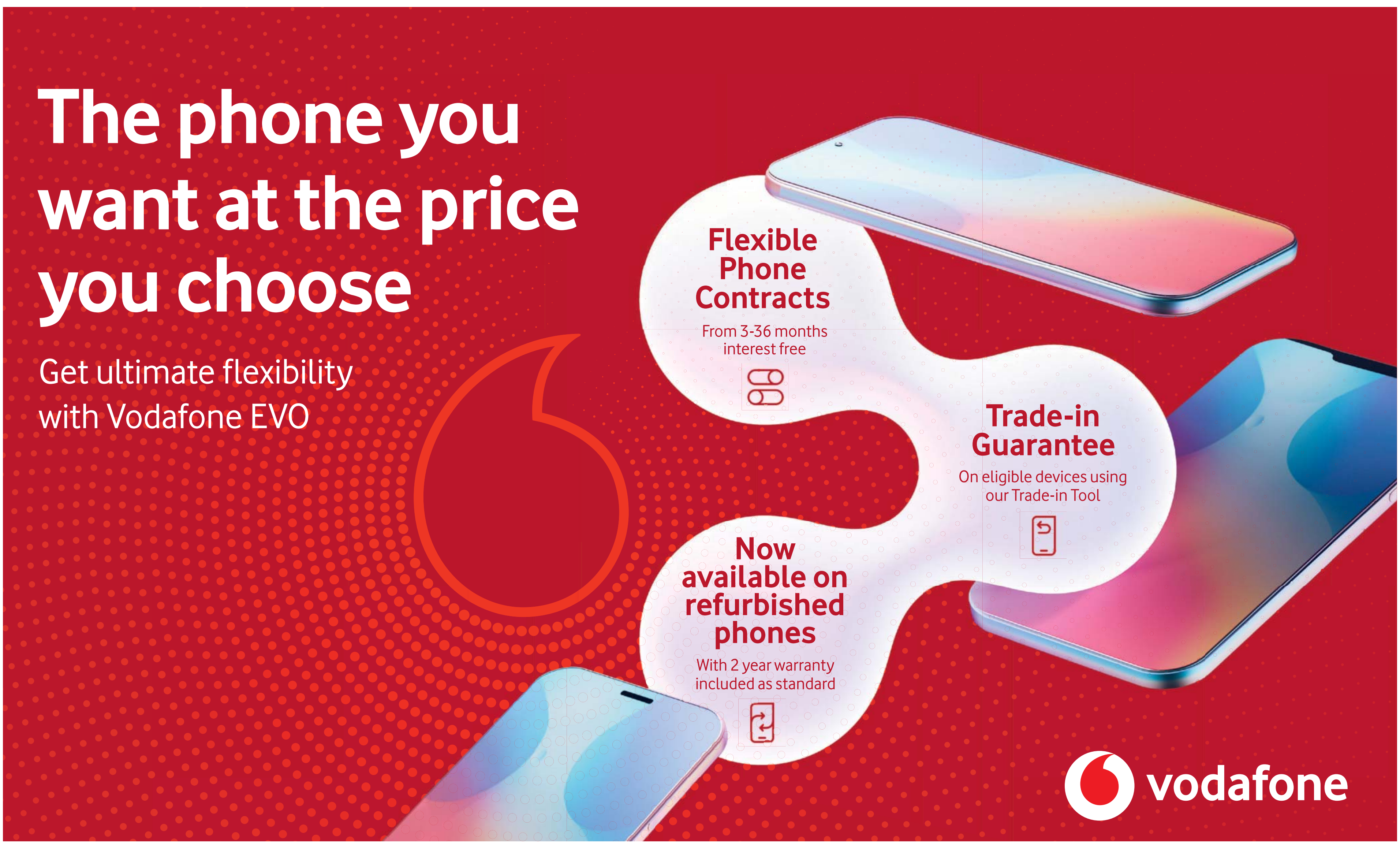
The fall in tourism after Madeleine's disappearance was followed by the financial crisis and then the impact of Covid-19 restrictions. There was antagonism towards the McCanns for their perceived neglect in preventing their daughter's abduction.

As property prices boom, hotel reservations fill up and the bars and restaurants prepare for a busy summer, the mood is more compassionate.

Three days after Madeleine disappeared her parents, Kate and Gerry McCann, both now 54, of Rothley, Leicestershire, left their holiday apartment to attend a Mother's Day service at the resort's 16th-century church. The building became a sanctuary for the couple, particularly Mrs McCann.

Chris Wells, the church warden, said: "We keep Madeleine and her parents in our prayers, but we don't want to be the church associated with Madeleine McCann. The village was badly hit by events and there was a very anti-McCann feeling. Now the German is a suspect, I think most people accept that the parents were not involved."

Andy Syers, 66, a retired teacher from Wetherby, West Yorkshire, lives in Praia da Luz for some of the year. Three of her grandchildren are visiting this week, with the eldest arriving next week. "We have been coming here for 27 years. It's an idyllic place, and safe," she said. "Sometimes we talk about [Madeleine], just the puzzle and the terrible tragedy."



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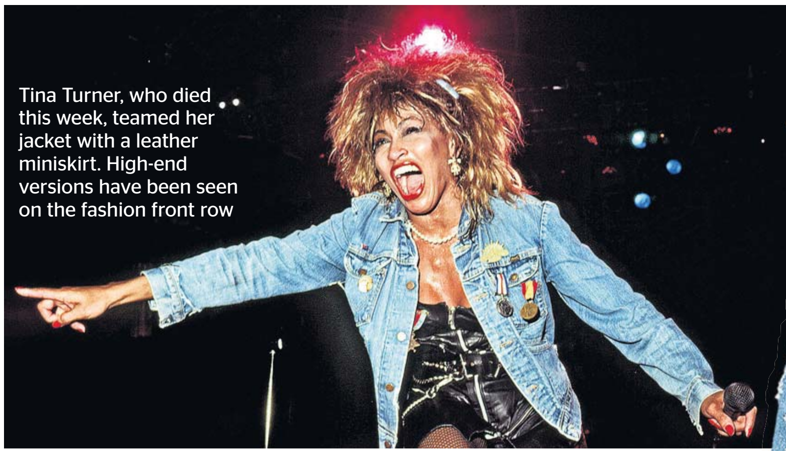


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GETTY IMAGES



Tina Turner, who died this week, teamed her jacket with a leather miniskirt. High-end versions have been seen on the fashion front row



Old denim jackets are on the button

It was spotted on the red carpet in Cannes and on the Dior catwalk last week (Hannah Rogers writes). In London, it won over the pashmina set at the Chelsea Flower Show. This season the denim jacket is back for It girls, influencers and their mothers.

So should you go stonewash or dark denim? Tina Turner famously wore her light blue take with leather minis. Kate Moss styled hers with leather jeans. You probably know how handy a denim jacket is in warmer months, but now the style set has caught up.

Maya Hawke, Uma Thurman's 24-year-old daughter and star of Wes Anderson's forthcoming film *Asteroid City* wore a bespoke denim jacket from the luxury house Schiaparelli to the film's premiere in Cannes this week.

Even the most haute couture labels are putting their own spin on the classic style. The dark wash denim jackets on Dior's cruise catwalk in Mexico City last weekend are likely to come with a four-digit price tag. Celine's is £1,100 and has embroidered cuffs; Chanel's is £3,000, despite not having sleeves.

Denim jackets have popped up repeatedly through the Sixties, Seventies, Eighties and Nineties. They have been adopted by Hollywood stars, hippies, punks and pop singers. Front-row types are championing a structured, slightly oversized blue version right now.

The one already hanging in your own wardrobe will do.

Thousands to plant trees in loving memory

Charlie Parker

Thousands of Times readers will be planting trees in memory of their friends and family members to mark Celebration Day tomorrow.

For the annual day of remembrance, The Times has joined the National Trust to help to create a new woodland that will serve as a "living memorial" for loved ones who have died.

Five thousand oak, beech, hornbeam and lime trees as well as wildlife-rich shrub species will be grown at a site near Dunham Massey in Greater Manchester from the autumn. They are available exclusively to our readers as part of a giveaway that ends on June 11.

The trees will be planted by teams of volunteers who will be guided by the trust's rangers and experts.

More than 2,000 people have secured saplings since the initiative was launched on Tuesday. All have shared fond memories of the friends, children, siblings, spouses, parents and grandparents they are dedicating trees to.

Alexander Taylor, 20, the youngest to make a submission, is honouring his grandfather, Frank Brown, with a tree. The oldest reader is Bertie Roberts, 93, who is planting his tree for his wife of 62 years, Ivy, who died in 2016.

Celebration Day has been created to encourage people to take time out of their busy lives to pause and think about important people they have lost.



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Videos teach how to steal an e-bike

TikTok videos showing how to hack into electric rental bikes have been blamed for a rise in the number abandoned (Ben Clatworthy writes).

Videos show how to "jump-start" the bikes and ride without paying, albeit without power. Others show how to cut cable cables to disconnect them from the company's networks.

Dockless bike schemes have become popular and riders can hire them via an app and leave them anywhere once their journey is complete.

In Brixton, south London, in the space of an hour 28 bikes were seen dangerously parked. Riders who use the services legally are required to take a picture of the bike correctly parked and upload it to the platform at the end of every ride. Those who do not comply can be



Studying other cultures is not appropriation, insists Schama

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

Historians should not be afraid of being accused of appropriation if they research outside their culture, Sir Simon Schama has said.

The historian, author and television presenter said the subject must not become an "identity-affirmation project". He said part of the appeal of studying history was "reaching out to understand the cultures of people who are not like you".

Schama, 78, is best known for his TV series *A History of Britain*, which focused on the British Empire, including its relationship with India.

The professor of history and art history at Columbia University has since then worked on Dutch, French, British, Jewish, American and art history.

He told Times Higher Education he was "rather fiercely worried about history as an identity-affirmation project. I don't hate it, but it's not for me."

He added: "What I do hate is a kind of ban on someone writing about a culture which isn't his or her own because they're accused of some sort of cultural appropriation."

The historian said his colleagues at Columbia, Eric Foner and Ira Katznelson, were not African-American but were "absolute colossi and role models" for their work on black history and race.

Schama published *Rough Crossings: Britain, the Slaves and the American Revolution* in 2005 and also presented a TV programme of the same name.

He said he was "completely gripped by the story" and that it did not cross his mind — nor that of his publisher — that his ethnic background could be a problem, but asked: "Do you think I'd be allowed to write that book now?"

Schama said *A History of Britain* was as exacting as any conventional scholarly project and that he disagreed that "somehow, popular and scholarly history are mutually depleting". He said it was important to make the past "live for the public" or risk dooming ourselves to an "intellectual graveyard".

When making programmes, he said "story must come first, the handmaid and condition of analytical debate, not the other way about … Story is the thread that connects our scholarly work with the listening, reading public, and we break it at our peril."

History remains the fifth most popular subject at A-level. Last year 96,000 students sat mathsA-level, whereas history had nearly 47,000 entrants last summer.

Schama believes the engagement of historians with the wider public is flourishing, particularly in the US. He said historians needed to be alert to "all the turmoil that race politics still generates or the grotesque abuse of history by someone like Donald Trump".

He also said: "The casual invocation of the Founding Fathers" allowed some right-wing pundits to "not worry about the bitter paradox [caused by] America's founding original sin" — "that those who talked about freedom were slave owners themselves". Many historians had been "constructive" in challenging such myths, he added.



One-off Pentecost, by the 15th-century Flemish artist known as Master of the Baroncelli

BEN CLATWORTHY FOR THE TIMES





Stolen bikes are often dumped, left; videos show how to beat the system

fined up to £30 or banned. Hacked bikes, which are easy to spot because the locking mechanism clicks, were also seen being ridden.

A local shopkeeper said: "It's the same kids who come in here up to no good [riding the bikes]. None of them pay to use the bikes. They dump them outside the shop, in the road, wherever."

Lime, the biggest hire company, said there were particular problems after school. It is now fitting all its bikes with a stronger back lock and updating software.

TikTok prankster arrest

David Woode Crime Correspondent

A TikTok personality has been arrested for allegedly breaching a criminal behaviour order by posting videos online — days after appearing in court over a social media prank.

Bacari-Bronze O'Garro, 18, known as Mizzy, was issued with a two-year criminal behaviour order (CBO) on Wednesday after he was filmed entering a family's home without permission as part of a viral stunt on May 15.

During a hearing at Thames magistrates' court, east London, O'Garro was told his sentence was "time served in custody on remand", a £200 fine and costs of £165.

Judge Charlotte Crangle told O'Garro that he was banned from trespassing into any private property, uploading "directly or indirectly" original video content on social media without documented consent of those featured, or attending Westfield Stratford City, a shopping centre in east London. However, video emerged online yesterday of him being arrested on top of a building. O'Garro, of Hackney, east London, was detained for allegedly uploading "two TikTok videos and two Twitter videos" on Wednesday and Thursday after receiving the court order.



Bacari-Bronze O'Garro was given a two-year community behaviour order

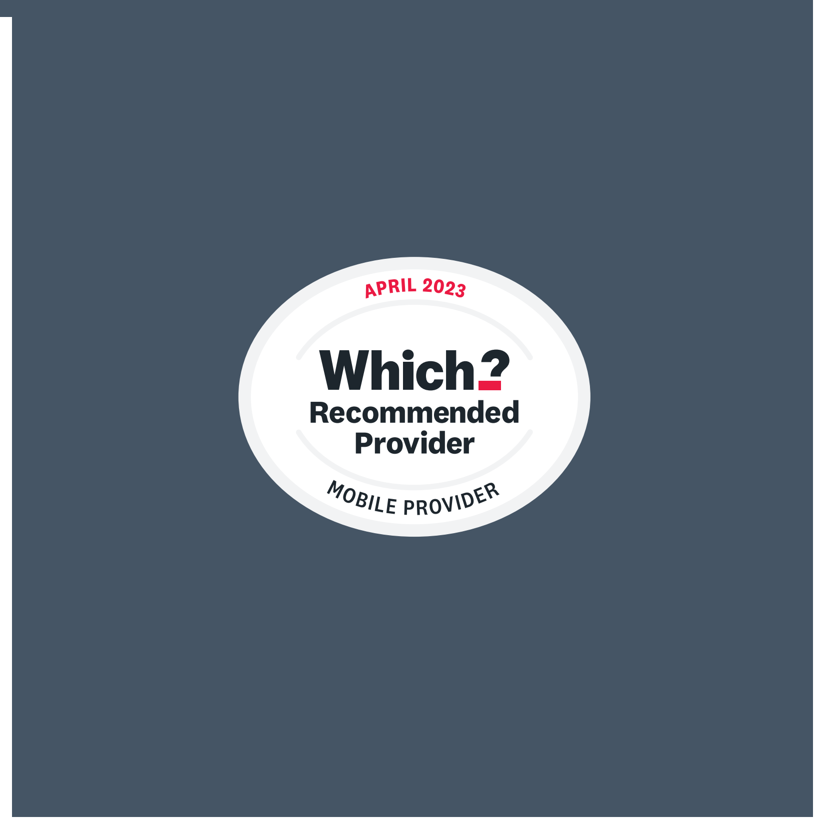
A Metropolitan Police spokesman said: "On May 26, officers arrested an 18-year-old man at an address in south-east London on suspicion of breach of a criminal behaviour order. He has been taken into custody. Inquiries are ongoing."

O'Garro apologised for trespassing and denied claims of "terrorising people" during an appearance on Talk TV's *Piers Morgan Uncensored* on Wednesday. He told Morgan: "I was egged on and my ego got a hold of me. The next day I apologised to the woman because I felt bad. It went deeper than social media. She explained that she was terrified because her children were in the house."

The content creator added: "I've been doing social media for my whole life. I just do it for fun. On or off camera, I do my [thing]."

CBOs have replaced anti-social behaviour orders on conviction and can be imposed by a court if an individual has engaged in behaviour that has caused, or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to a person.





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Police investigate Floyd star's Nazi-style costume

Seren Hughes

Police in Berlin are investigating after Roger Waters wore an outfit that resembled a Nazi uniform on stage.

The Pink Floyd co-founder wore a black trench coat with a red armband and a symbol resembling crossed hammers, rather than swastikas, on his collar at two concerts at the Mercedes-Benz Arena last week. He also carried a fake machinegun.

His outfit echoed Pink, a rock star depicted in the film based on the band's album *The Wall*, who descends into madness, imagining he is a dictator at a neo-Nazi rally. The hallucination includes images of marching hammers.

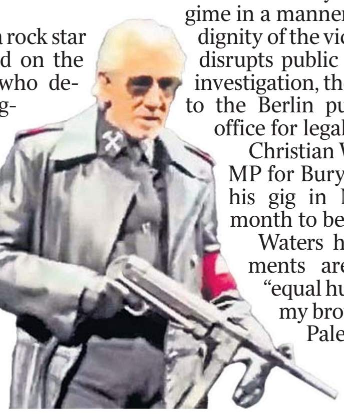
Waters, 79, opened the show in Berlin with these words on a screen: "On a matter of public interest: a court in Frankfurt has ruled I am not an antisemite. Just to be clear, I condemn antisemitism unreservedly."

In Germany it is illegal to display Nazi symbols, although art is mostly exempt. Chief Inspector Martin Halweg, of Berlin police, said: "The context of the clothing worn is deemed capable of approving, glorifying or justifying the violent and arbitrary rule of the Nazi regime in a manner that violates the dignity of the victims and thereby disrupts public peace." After the investigation, the case will be sent to the Berlin public prosecutor's office for legal assessment.

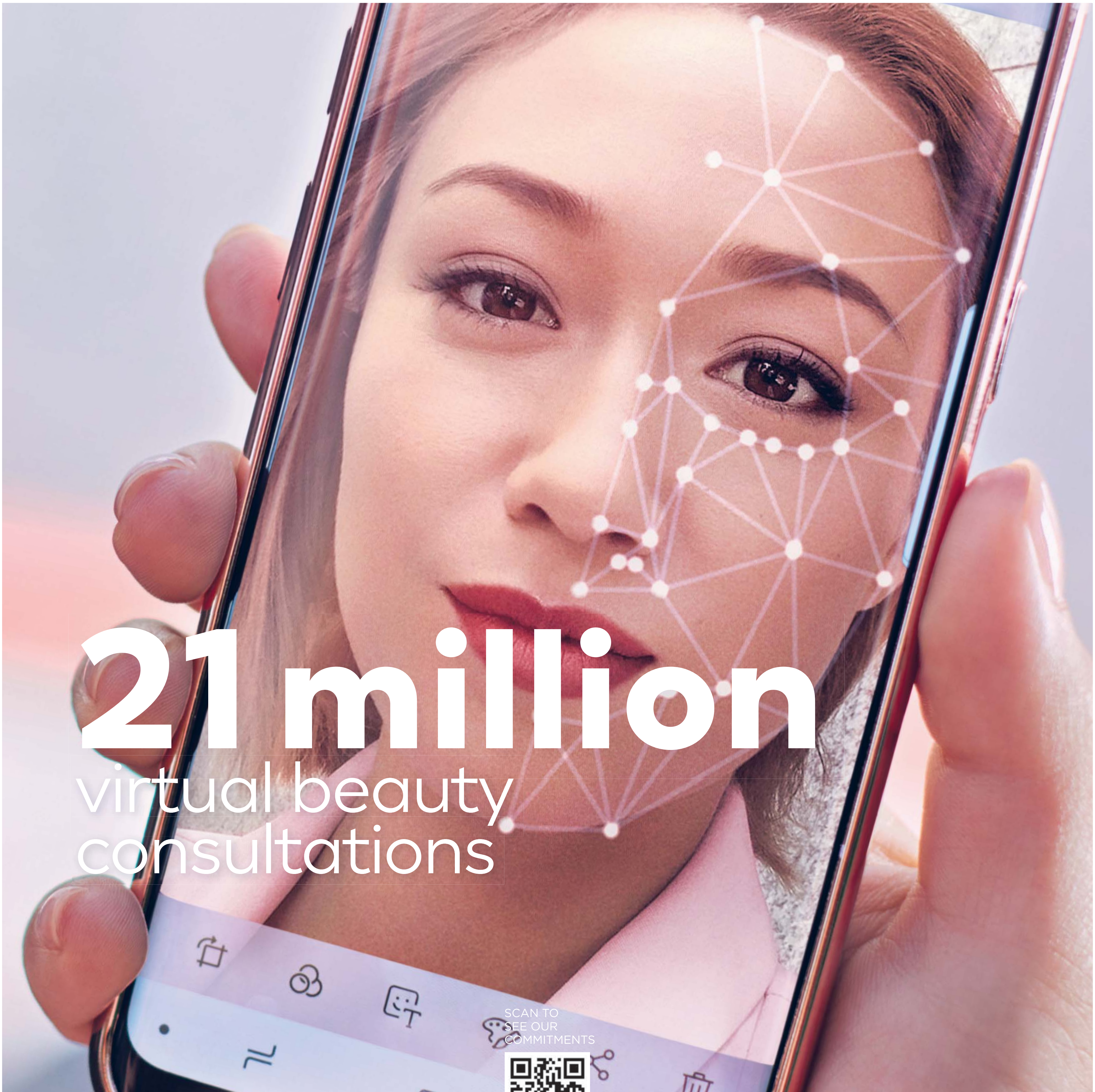
Christian Wakeford, Labour MP for Bury South, called for his gig in Manchester next month to be called off.

Waters has said his comments are in support of "equal human rights for all my brother and sisters in Palestine/Israel".

He has been approached for comment.



Roger Waters, who tours the UK in June, denies antisemitism



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How Turkey's second century is being shaped by Erdogan
Weekend essay
Pages 34-35

Comment

Tories had a plan to rescue rail, so let's see it

Privatisation has derailed, there's nobody in charge, but a workable solution exists in the form of Great British Railways

Matthew Parris



As a Derbyshire MP back in the 1980s and before the railways were privatised, I relied on the Midlands main line. So did a few Labour MPs, one of whom complained about the service at transport questions. Nicholas Ridley, the transport secretary, replied that this was an operational matter, and he should take his complaint to the British Rail chairman. Toady that I was, I leapt up to describe the service as excellent — and awaited my ministerial pat on the head.

In vain. The laconic Ridley advised me to direct my observations to the BR chairman. He knew that to accept bouquets was also to invite brickbats.

But here's the irony. At that time, though railways were state-owned, ministers were not answerable for their operation. Yet 40 years later, when in theory the railways are privately run, questions about their daily operations, timetables or stations are routinely answered from the dispatch box. "Ask the CEO of Midland Railways" is not a retort a Midlands MP would expect today: indeed, the CEO would probably refer you back to the Department for Transport. At questions last month I note that the junior minister found himself discussing some claimed improvements at Accrington railway station; and boasting about step-free access at 220 stations.

As one industry figure remarked recently, the managing director of a railway company "neither manages nor directs". The theory of railway privatisation, which once excited me, has seriously derailed. We could argue until the cows come home whether the theory was flawed, or whether blame lies with incompetent private management, the bidding process for rail franchises, Covid-19, Whitehall's raging addiction to micromanagement or the Treasury's instinct to cut costs blindly. Probably a mix. No matter. The structure is broken and we must face this. Britain's rail system is flapping in the wind. A Martian asking a railway official to take him to his leader would meet a blank stare. Nobody's in charge. Nobody's banging heads together. And government is looking the other way.

In broad outline the present set-up is this: Network Rail, which was supposed to be arm's-length from government, is responsible for the "infrastructure": rail lines, signalling, ownership of most stations. The operation of passenger and freight rail services was supposed to be the domain of thrusting, innovative, passenger-focused private companies that had successfully bid for operating franchises auctioned off by the transport department.

> Operators have gone bust or handed their franchises back

But companies have gone bust, handed their franchises back, or been sucked into huge, amorphous conglomerates or pension funds driven only by an appetite for reliable incomes from a public utility. Lockdowns, strikes, working-from-home, and arguably the failure of the whole idea that the private sector would accept risk while embracing reward, have driven franchisees back into the arms of Whitehall. And we're left with an army of civil servants tangled into the hair of those actually trying to run a railway.

I'm still reeling from a claim that there are some 600 civil servants assigned to contracting, when there's hardly any contracting taking place. And did you know that no railway station can now fill a vacancy without Whitehall's permission? I hear reports of a recent Zoom meeting attended by 32 DfT officials. Rail unions have a point when they say they really don't know with whom they're negotiating any more. There is no axis here, no central shaft to the umbrella, no Fat Controller in the signal box. We need a plan.

But, hey, we have one. The plan exists. It's all there, laid out in detail and intellectually coherent as well as practically achievable — and it's government policy. The plan was one of Boris Johnson's better projects and whether or not he was across the detail, he gave it the support from No 10 that any big project needs. It's called the Williams-Shapps plan, it's a Tory commitment, and it's perfectly doable before the next election. A short and relatively simple bill is required. Labour would routinely object, but without passion.

Keith Williams's plan (the "Shapps" suffix we may affectionately disregard) is this: Network Rail is swallowed up by GBR: Great British Railways (I know, I know, but it's only a name: hold your nose), which becomes a single "guiding mind" responsible for the infrastructure and for safety, maintenance and planning. GBR will set fares, standardise fare structures, oversee timetables and receive fare revenue on the state's behalf. GBR also becomes the national railway "brand", as British Rail once was. It contracts with private operators to lease and run the trains, paying them a fixed price for a fixed term; they collect fares but hand their revenue over to GBR. In short, GBR pulls responsibility down from Whitehall and sucks it up from the private train operators. This bears a suspicious resemblance to what we had in British Rail, except — importantly — that passenger services are privately run. What we oldies remember about BR was solidity, coherence, an integrated strategy and tight cost-control; but we still shudder at the Soviet attitude towards the actual passenger or the possibility of a freshly made sandwich. In those days the Treasury kept starving BR of investment, so it will be important that GBR secures long-term (I'd say ten-year) deals to lock out the prying fingers of cash-starved ministers — the British state looks set for many decades of fiscal crises.



GBR would be a national brand like British Rail, but with better sandwiches

A workable plan exists. I might complain that the Williams project could do with the injection of a tad more competition and commercial energy, but time's running out and we can tweak later. So can't we just stop faffing around? Nobody blames Mark Harper, the level-headed transport secretary; but is this Treasury-schooled prime minister really interested?

If not, Rishi Sunak should look again. The state of Britain's rail sector isn't just flat, depressed, demotivated: it's worse than that. Next year, as election leaflets drop through the letter boxes of wavering Tory commuters across the English southeast, an already fraying rail fabric could come seriously apart at the seams. I can picture the sea of Lib-Dem posters across the home counties. GBR may not be red meat to the bonkers right in the parliamentary party, but securing this untethered guy rope to the UK economy is just what a quietly problem-solving PM ought to relish.

> It will set fares and standardise them, and oversee timetables

Last week I bumped into a couple of railway professionals awaiting the London train on the Derby platform. They think it was good news Derby was chosen as future headquarters for GBR. "They've been conned," I thought. "It won't happen". This Conservative government still has time — just — to prove me wrong.

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Ann Treneman Notebook

I want a little less theatre and a little more garden

To the Chelsea Flower Show, to see the latest gardening trends, including weeds, derelict buildings, rewilding and, thankfully, irises. I was immediately struck by how the fashion for designers to recreate a landscape, as opposed to making a garden, continues to flourish.

Last year there was the infamous dammed beaver pond "garden", which benefited hugely from the fact that it contained no beavers wrecking the planting plan. This year, in the same space on the main avenue, was a garden that recreates a Korean mountainside (using Scottish granite) that was so "real" you felt you needed hiking boots and a survival bag to enter. Very Wim Hof.

These types of gardens, which feel more like tableaux than usable space, are like pieces of horticultural theatre. The Centrepoint garden, all weeds and brush piles, was built around an abandoned (but still very nice) fireplace. It had a sense of wildness but, of course, in real life it would also be strewn with sweet wrappers, drug paraphernalia and broken bottles, not to mention encased in blackberry thickets.



It felt almost a guilty pleasure to escape "reality" and gaze at the designer Sarah Price's exquisite irises in her atmospheric garden, which was, without question, the gardener's garden of the year.

Great weeds

I am not sure that the great weed debate is much of a debate. I include some weeds — garlic mustard, green alkanet — in my borders and see nothing revolutionary about it. I do think, however, that some plants, such as the brash and bold dandelion, will never be truly loved. Don't even get me started on couch grass. Yes, there were weeds at Chelsea but they were mostly lovely ones. The most lovely of all must be cow parsley. I have always adored this plant, with its delicate white halo, and cannot figure out why anyone ever thought it was a weed. Last year, when I had my "wild edible" container garden at Chelsea, I had to "source" cow parsley for it. You really aren't supposed to dig up verges and so I relied on nurseries. Not the easiest task, it must be said. Why isn't this plant seen for the beauty it is?

Top tip

The past week has been spent "unwilding" my garage. This was always Ian's territory and one of my sisters came to help as, left to my own devices, I could easily have been defeated by memories. Our goal? A tidy garage with room for the extremely radical concept of keeping a car in it.

It felt very much like an archaeological dig, with layers of "stuff" (technical term) that included an alarming number of electrical items, tiles, carpets and screwdrivers.

We made at least ten trips to the tip in Darley Dale, staffed by men who were unfailingly helpful, sharing the heaviest loads and directing us to the right ramps to deposit metal, paint, textiles, wood, chipboard. Give them all OBEs, I say. It felt much more satisfying to "unwild" in this way, separating out types of rubbish and recycling, than to just get a skip and chuck it all in.

Free for all

At some point, knee-deep in electrical bits (do all men collect this stuff?), my sister wondered out loud if we might just put some of the bulky charity items out on the kerb. Thus our own "Free 2 U" stall was born. We unloaded a dozen chairs, a coffee maker and three giant mirrors. The wine fridge also had to go (and did, in a jiffy): it's just not something a single person needs.

Bye, haters — it's a lot more fun in Room 102

Waking up under the cat, the smell of cigars and opening doors for women would all make the list of things I love

Giles Coren



They asked me on Times Radio last week to tell them what I hate most. "What, everything?" I replied. "Because that could take a while." No, they said, just a couple of "pet peeves" to put in my Room 101 because the TV show of that name was returning to our (well, your) screens after a five-year layoff. Claudia Winkleman apparently chose "picnics, whispering and alliteration" for the first episode, to which Carol Midgley responded with a piece in T2 calling Claudia's choices "a little vanilla" (she is dark, is Carol) and responding with a long list of her own ("panties", "wellness", Gordon Ramsay, "chilli gone barmy"…). Hundreds of commenters piled in with theirs below the line and a morning of golden radio ensued as presenters, celebrities and listeners joined in with more.

But the thing is, my entire working life has been devoted to enumerating the things I hate, or pretend to hate, two or three times a week, for nearly 30 years. It's a bit depressing.

So, parking the urge to explain that George Orwell's Room 101 does not contain what you hate, it contains what you *fear*, I found myself saying: "I don't hate anything, I have no pet peeves. Room 101 asks people of immense wealth and privilege to moan about how their diamond shoes are too tight, and in this world of genuine pain and hardship I will have no part of it. If anything, I think we should be talking about the things we would put in Room 102. Which is where I keep all the things that I love."

A little sanctimonious, perhaps, but it is a nice idea, isn't it? That instead of grumbling about the stuff that drives us mad, we might list the things that keep us sane. Forget about piling on to social media to denounce what we abhor, and instead spare a thought for what we love.

So here is what I would put in Room 102. It won't be as funny or as click-baity or, I admit, as satisfying as a list of hates, but it might prove good for the soul.

Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes… ha, only kidding.

Waking in the middle of the night because the cat has come to check I am alive (she is a pack animal, and that is what they do — I read it in a cat manual somewhere) and, finding that I am, which is a relief to me also, has elected to sleep on my chest.

Lunch on my own, in the corner of a near-empty restaurant, one course and a glass of wine, with the paper folded on the table to the right of my plate.

> I don't care if it's old chauvinist nonsense, I love it, they love it

A really good satsuma. Not too sharp, not too sweet. Not too soft, not too hard.

Lord's.

Batshit stories from the culture war, most recently the one where the tales of Beatrix Potter are apparently built on the cultural appropriation of slave narratives. I rarely write about that stuff now and I don't care about it. I just like thinking about all the people who do.



'Hello, Giles', as the giraffes at London Zoo often say in morning greeting

Cycling to work through Regent's Park after dropping Sam at school and saying "good morning" to the giraffes, who occasionally look down from their vertiginous breakfasts to say hello back.

Splitting wood for kindling. The way the axe falls with less and less effort through the wood as the log I'm splitting gets smaller.

The blue and white hoops on a Queens Park Rangers shirt.

Opening doors for women. Especially when they smile and say "thank you". I don't care if it's old chauvinist nonsense. I love it and they love it, so I'm doing it.

The trailing plant who lives in the soap alcove of my shower. She survives on the water that splashes off me and my wife when we wash. She is our least complex dependant.

A pistachio that has already shucked its shell before I got there.

My cricket dads, the men whose sons play for the same under-10 cricket team as mine, who are always there, on the boundary, in the fading sun, chatting quietly, taking turns to get pints from the bar and to go silent and serious and vacant when their own kid is at the wicket with ball or bat.

Silver Age DC comics mounted on a wall in the basement of a comics shop.

The smell of a cigar. I'm not a smoker any more but cigar fumes are so woody, chocolatey almost, I could cry for the taste of tobacco in my mouth again, for the old days, for Walter Raleigh…

My fluorescent yellow cycling helmet. For years, I cycled without one because I thought it was wussy. Now I take solace in knowing how easy it will be to locate my squashed remains by torchlight under the articulated lorry out there with my name on it.

When a young man in a hoodie with a terrifying dog, on a chain you could moor a cross-Channel ferry with, stops to bag its poo. I mean, it's rare, but when it happens, awwwww…

Hot smoked salmon on the barbecue. Easiest thing in the world. Take a whole side of salmon, season it if you want, lay it on tin foil over smouldering wood (not charcoal) in your crappy old Weber, and cover it. Come back in 27 minutes, having boiled a kilo of new potatoes and made a good, sharp, lemony cucumber salad. Welcome to summer.

Turning the shower back to warm in the morning after first turning it cold and counting to 60. Especially in deep winter.

When a social thing I had in the diary — literally any social thing — gets cancelled.

Stamping across a frosty lawn to wee on my compost heap at dawn.

Reading my Kindle in bed, set very, very dim, when my wife is asleep next to me.

A can of Schweppes tonic water over ice with a slice of lemon at 6pm, when I'm not drinking. And the way I feel the next day.

A ghost poo.

Any mid-1960s convertible five-seater Mercedes. My father's was a 1965 220SE in dark blue, the only right-hand-drive example ever made, he claimed (probably bollocks). So while I never expect to see it again, the sight of anything vaguely like it brings back the smell of fags, five-star petrol and brilliantine. Brings back, ever so briefly, him.

Newspapers.

Suddenly remembering, when out in the evening, that I am in the middle of a brilliant novel and that when I get home and get into bed, it will be there.

When my wife rubs moisturiser on my back after a shower. Mostly she won't do it because my bare flesh, quite understandably, revolts her.

My children reading the Beano while eating cereal.

Writing this column on a westbound train out of Paddington on a Friday morning because I'm on the way to Somerset for lunch and calling it "work".

John Lewis-Stempel Nature Notebook

Making tree hay while the shield bugs shower

Into the greenshade of the copse, armed with pruners. The making of "tree hay" is an agricultural practice from Neolithic times; the lower, leafy fronds of trees are lopped off, dried and stored as fodder for the livestock in winter. Oak, hazel, lime, hawthorn and birch are good; the objective of tree hay is less belly-bulk, more the preservation of nutrition. Health food for beasts.



Even with contemporary steel-jawed, long-handled pruners — as opposed to a flint adze — making tree hay requires a certain endurance; the continuous looking up is a literal pain in the neck. The job needs sensitivity, obviously: one avoids the trees with nesting birds. Rarely, though, is one closer to arboreal bug life. Tree insects, disturbed by the pruning and the falling, shower down. A current constant in my hair is the hawthorn shield bug, *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*, now emerging from its hibernal crevice for the mating season. At 17mm this is the largest and most commonly encountered of the British shield bugs.

As well as porting the *Pentatomidae*'s defining medieval shield-shaped back, *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* also wears power-dressing shoulder pads from an Eighties episode of *Dynasty*. (The bug's blood-red and lime green body, with its angularities and low-rider rear end, summons too a 1950s Cadillac Eldorado; *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* is the shield bug assembled from the artefacts of the ages.)

Usually companionable and curious, the hawthorn shield bug may, when alarmed, emit a foul orange fluid from glands in the thorax. This capacity to produce a defensive odour gives shield bugs their alternative cognomen of "stink bugs". The hawthorn shield bug has a mouth akin to a hypodermic syringe, which it inserts into plant tissues vampirically to suck the life out of them. Although hawthorn is its primary food, especially for larvae, who subsist on the haws, adults may sup the sap of hazel, rowan and birch, as well as oak, my present tree of work.

Medieval sages

Wild clary, *Salvia verbenaca*, is a conspicuous perennial, a 60cm (2ft) tower of neon purple. It is a prettifier of poor places, such as dry grassland, sand dunes or railway lines. In the south of England, it also embellishes the place of the dead. It was medieval practice to sow wild clary around graves in the expectation it conferred immortality. (See "Wild Clary in Churchyards", News, January 1995, The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland.) The plant, able to persist for centuries when established, is a living relic of medieval religious belief.

"'Clary" comes, via the convolutions of popular etymology, from "clear-eye"; mucilage from wetted seeds was used historically to remove an irritating mote from the eye. (One suspects that makers of tree hay in days of yore had need of the paste.) The health associations of wild clary are not eyewash; a report in BioMed Research International last year noted the plant's "antibacterial, antidiabetic,



The hawthorn shield bug secretes foul orange fluid if alarmed. Left, a stoat

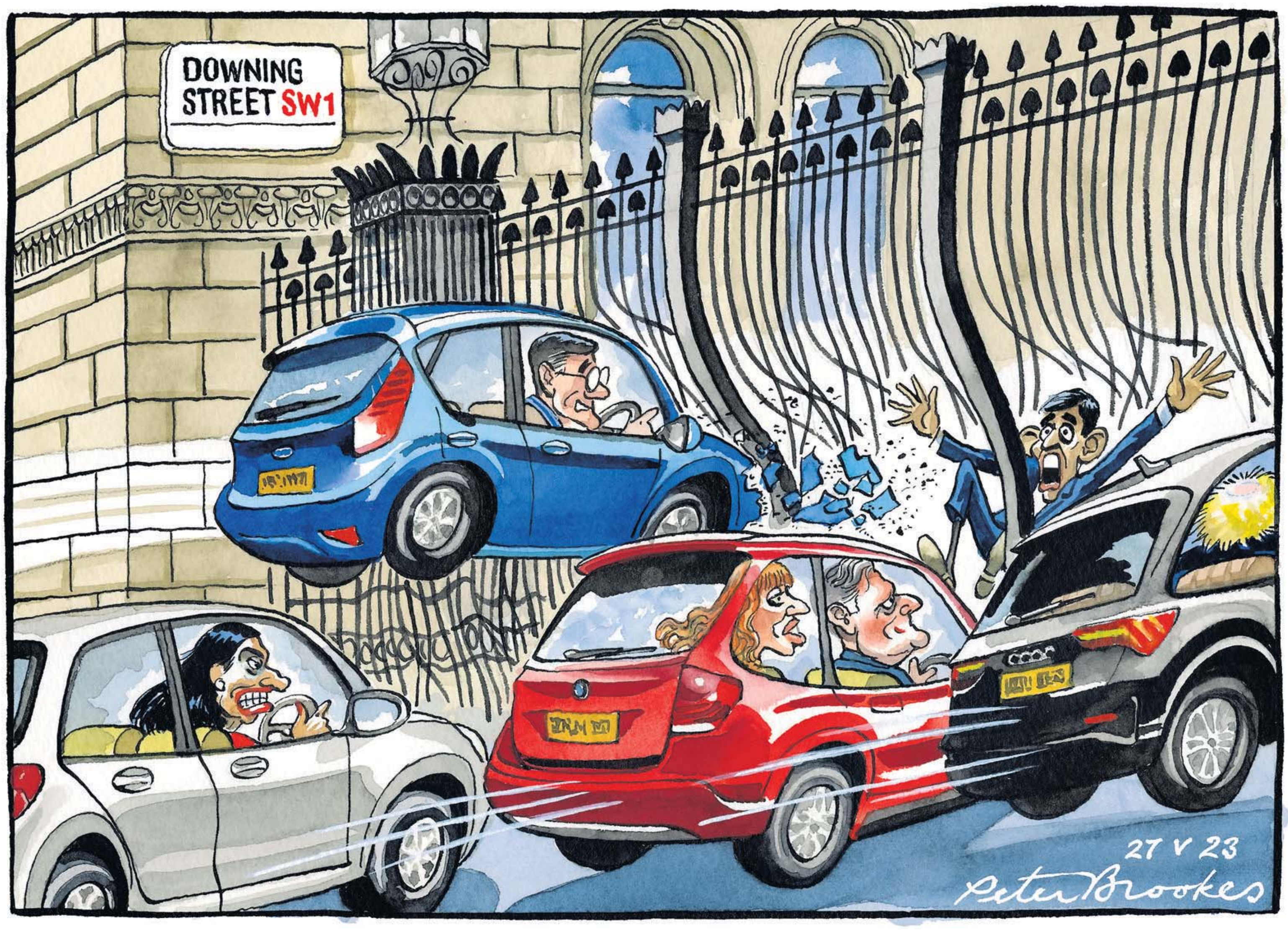
anticancer and immunomodulatory properties via a variety of mechanisms". Bees are mad for it. The flowers, which display as miniature sickles, as though in some hallucinogenic communist logo, are arranged in whorls on the stem, which is exactly and uncommonly square. Some flowers may remain shut and set viable seed by self-pollination, the botanical process known as cleistogamy: from the Greek kleistos and gamos, meaning "closed marriage". The grey-green leaves are rough, wrinkled and aromatic, although much less so than clary's cousin, culinary sage, *Salvia officinalis*. There are wild flowers, when introduced to the border, that die in revolt at captivity. Wild clary is not so contrary, and will in your garden grow, if located in an open sunny aspect.

Jill and her brood

Among the phrases the British naturalist is least likely to use is: "I saw a pack of stoats." The mustelid is notoriously singular, and territorial. Yet last Sunday, as I uncorked the terrier from a rat hole in the hedge, a caravanserai of *Mustela erminea* crossed the lane. Realisation finally dawned; it was a mother leading her five kits, who were almost adult themselves, probably born in early April as is stoat habit. The mother-load of the jill stoat is mind-numbing; a female stoat feeding young will consume twice her own body weight in meat per day. Since she is able to conceive almost immediately after giving birth, she may be pregnant while raising her progeny.

I suspect the mother was taking the kits for a hunting lesson. Thus more maternal duty. According to folklore a stoat met on the road is bad luck, only allayed by greeting the creature kindly. I raised my cap and wished the gang good hunting.

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Foul tactics won't move determined Falkner

Chairwoman of the EHRC is defending women's rights despite menacing protesters and a targeted Stonewall campaign

Janice Turner

@VICTORIAPECKHAM

Heavily masked and dressed in black, male activists last week left a dozen litre-bottles of urine outside the entrance to the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). One contained a suspicious device, causing police to perform a controlled explosion. It wasn't the first time: in September the same group, Pissed Off Trannies, splashed urine on the doorway and over themselves. This disgusting, unhinged, menacing tactic has one aim: to drive out the EHRC chairwoman, Baroness Falkner of Margravine.

Does this count as bullying? Not, it seems, like "eye-rolling" or a curt email or, in some unspecified sense, creating a "lack of psychological safety" — all charges levelled at Falkner. When the dossier of her alleged offences was leaked to Channel 4 News, portentous music played and the presenter Cathy Newman adopted a war crimes tone. But what was the smoking gun? That in a board meeting Falkner, trying to encapsulate cruel Twitter reaction to a trans quiz contestant, used the phrase "bloke in lipstick".

The bullying inquiry has been suspended but the taint will remain. A 68-year-old Pakistani-born Muslim woman with 35 years of public service, a Liberal Democrat with a flawless progressive voting record on gay adoption and same-sex marriage, Falkner has lost her unimpeachable good name, plus £30,000 she spent in legal fees defending it.

Why is she being hounded from outside and within? Falkner is accused of politicising the EHRC, yet in fact she is merely de-politicising her predecessor's regime. Her first act was to withdraw the EHRC from the Stonewall Champions scheme, which had meant that under her predecessor David Isaac (ex-chairman of Stonewall) a government body whose core mission is to balance all human rights was following rules set by one lobby group alone.

Isaac disseminated what Stonewall wanted the 2010 Equality Act to say, that female-only services can't exclude trans-identifying males (he apologised in 2018); Falkner upholds the letter of the law, with its careful, limited single-sex exemptions. Isaac gave succour to those equating sex-based rights with transphobia; Falkner intervened in the case of Maya Forstater, securing a landmark judgment that the belief that sex is binary and immutable is "worthy of respect in a democratic society".

The EHRC is neither a charity nor a social justice organisation. It is funded by the taxpayer to defend nine "protected characteristics", fight nine forms of discrimination, from a disabled person who can't access public transport to a black officer facing racism in the Met. It is not permitted to rank the nine in a hierarchy of oppression that, according to present fashion, asserts that trans rights trump the rest.

Yet many EHRC staff are confused by the nature and purpose of their employer. Among complaints fed to Vice News was that "the board was building links to anti-trans groups. It was awful". They meant Falkner had met women's bodies concerned that biological sex (another of the nine) was being overwritten by "gender identity", which isn't enshrined in law.

> Running the EHRC was the worst job in the civil service

Given that the EHRC was formed by the merging of three commissions — on race, disability and sex equality — no wonder it has warring fiefdoms. Ian Acheson, who became chief operating officer in 2012, long before the gender wars, was warned that running this "dysfunctional and inward-looking" body was the worst job in the civil service. The busiest department, he recalls, was human resources, with much of his time taken up by frivolous staff complaints.

In this the EHRC shares the fate of many liberal organisations whose founding purposes, to set up physical services or change the law via strategic litigation, are being subsumed by internal fights. In the US, the election of President Biden, plus Black Lives Matter and the downfall of Roe v Wade, were expected to re-energise progressive groups. Instead many, such as the American Civil Liberties Union or reproductive rights charity Planned Parenthood, have turned in on themselves, with battles between bitter staff and management paralysing their broader mission.

One former NGO director explained to The Intercept magazine that for young people for whom social justice means waging a Twitter pile-on, real change is daunting: "Maybe I can't end racism by myself, but I can get my manager fired … People found power where they could, and often that's where you work." Identity politics re-routed campaigns from the wider world to the self; from building things up to smashing them down.

This, in part, is the EHRC's story too. But the battle to bring down Falkner is not mere Gen Z iconoclasm, it is laser-targeted. Since December 2020, when she took office, Stonewall has led a coalition of LGBT groups in three attempts to have EHRC downgraded from an A-status human rights body. Three times it has failed. One by one, Stonewall's back channels to change government policy covertly have been removed. The EHRC was its strongest redoubt, its governmental proxy, until Falkner came along.

Moreover the bullying dossier was produced at a critical moment, just before the EHRC board meeting to discuss the reply to the equality minister Kemi Badenoch's question: is clarification needed in the Equality Act to state categorically that "sex" means biological sex? The hope was that Falkner would be suspended before the meeting, that the new commissioners she had appointed — including many more people of colour — would founder with their leader gone. Instead Falkner survived to chair the meeting that replied to Badenoch with an unequivocal "yes".

Now there are reports that Falkner is often "close to tears" or has taken compassionate leave. Those close to her say this is nonsense. Because, like many women drawn into this most toxic battle, the fouler the tactics the more determined and angry she has grown. Her resolve is undiminished, no matter how many flimsy assaults on her character or bottles of piss.

Letters to the Editor

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letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Need for honest debate about immigration

Sir, Your editorial ("Coming Clean", May 26) rightly challenges our political class to a serious debate about immigration. It is to the government's credit that in response to the record net migration figures it has largely resisted a knee-jerk reaction, which could only damage our economic recovery, health and social care sector and the finances of our universities. Labour has also set out some thoughtful measures to encourage companies to employ and train British workers, rather than turn too easily to skilled migrants. We now need more comprehensive thinking about how to rebalance the UK labour market. This should include incentives to get some of the millions on benefits back to work; investment in training for shortage occupations; better childcare; long-term workforce plans for health and social care; and financial incentives for universities to recruit more UK postgraduate students. It could take five to ten years to wean our economy off its over-dependence on migrant labour but the electorate would take more seriously politicians who engaged in such long-term thinking.
Sir David Normington
Permanent secretary, Home Office 2006-11; Petersfield, Hants

Sir, Your editorial implies that the UK should seek to remain in the top ten biggest economies in the world in 50 years' time and that immigration is the means to achieve it. It is hard to see how this could be a sensible objective. England is one of the most crowded countries in Europe and we already have severe strains on our housing and public services. Moreover, two decades of high immigration have given us our slowest productivity growth on record. The "dirty little secret", as you put it, is not that Britain needs large-scale immigration. It is that Tony Blair threw open our borders to much higher levels of immigration, at least in part for political reasons. Since then successive Conservative governments have, under pressure from industry, failed to meet the wishes of the majority of our population and indeed their own repeated undertakings to reduce it. They will pay a heavy price at the polls, and rightly so.
Lord Green of Deddington
President, Migration Watch

Sir, I would vote for any party whose main or only priority was reducing immigration, because every other issue that negatively affects us all — a lack of housing, an overstretched NHS, high crime rates, high unemployment, a lack of school places, congested roads, a creaking sewage system, a struggling economy — is directly and negatively affected by too-high and uncontrolled immigration.
Stefan Badham
Portsmouth

Sir, It is worth pointing out, yet again, that a significant proportion of the increase in the immigration figures comprises international students, who form one of the UK's main and most successful export categories. Why are these students not excluded from the figures, as in other countries, not least because most of them return home after their studies? The government seems to be shooting itself in the foot.
Stephen Warshaw
London NW3

Sir, Why do political parties make commitments on net migration? This is the difference between people coming in and people leaving. But governments can do nothing about the latter; so any commitment should be confined to numbers coming in.
Lord Young of Cookham
Former leader of the House of Commons; London SW1

Bashing the Bank

Sir, Patrick Hosking ("Bashing Bailey", business commentary, May 24) raises the important point "Why is it [the Bank of England] still basing so much of its forecasting on a model using data from the past 30 years, when inflation was falling or quiescent, rather than the perhaps more apt 1970s and 1980s?" Sadly, the answer is that its models would fail over such turbulent periods as its mathematical foundations are invalid outside quiescent times, just as Euclidean geometry is invalid if applied to a globe rather than a flat surface. The Bank abandoned its earlier "structural" model after the financial crisis as it fell apart, but foolishly tried to rebuild it rather than develop a model that actually described how economies with financial accelerators and potential wage-price spirals function after major shocks. The model's failure to also build in realistic household behaviour meant that the Bank underestimated the strength of consumer demand after the pandemic, spending the highly liquid bank deposits that had surged in the pandemic from the inability to spend on travel and many services.
Professor Sir David F Hendry and **Professor John Muellbauer**
Nuffield College, Oxford

Overseeing police

Sir, Jawad Iqbal makes some important points ("Time to axe these hopeless police commissioners", May 26) but it is a very ad hoc approach to give a few examples of what are arguably errors by police and crime commissioners to discredit the institutional framework: did none of our home secretaries or the PCCs' predecessor institutions make mistakes? The 1981 riots and the struggles for accountability would suggest otherwise. It is unclear what Iqbal proposes to replace them with: unalloyed central control? Alun Michael was aiming to devise the situation to reduce harm in the area, and the circumstances now seem more complicated than either he or his detractors represented it to be. But this is a case for reform and improvement rather than abolition, which would further weaken local engagement in policing and its legitimacy.
Michael Levi
Professor of criminology, Cardiff University

Letters to The Times must be exclusive and may be edited. Please include a full address and daytime telephone number.

Clinical trial bonus

Sir, Compensation for participation in clinical trials, whether for medical staff or patients, is not straightforward ("Bonus for GPs if patients take part in clinical trials", news, May 26). Any payment is a potential inducement to consider actions other than those that are clearly in the best interest of an individual patient.

Patients recruited to trials receive and sign an information and consent form setting out the risks and benefits to them. This should include the financial interests of medical staff recommending recruitment. Patients clearly have a right to know the benefits to others of their participation in addition to the persuasive expectation that their participation may benefit other patients in the future.
Andrew Millar, MRCP, FRCS
Wallingford, Oxon

Sir, Rather than pay bonuses to GPs to spend valuable time encouraging their patients to join clinical trials, when GP's are already overrun by the health needs of our ageing population, it would make more sense to offer those same inducements directly to the patients.
John Grossman
Northwood, Middx

Plot to kill Queen

Sir, Had the IRA sympathiser succeeded in dropping an "object" from the Golden Gate Bridge on to the Britannia during the Queen's visit to California in 1983, he would have missed his target as the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were not aboard ("American IRA sympathiser plotted to kill Elizabeth II", May 26). Bad weather had forced the royal party to arrive in San Francisco by air. President Reagan's deputy chief of staff, Mike Deaver, did, however, arrange for the presidential aircraft with the Queen on board to fly out of San Francisco and over the Golden Gate bridge just as Britannia sailed into port beneath it, accompanied by a friendly flotilla of sailing boats.

As the British embassy "gofer" for the visit, I was lucky enough to see it.
Sir Stephen Wall
Private secretary to the prime minister 1991-93; London SW18

Rebel with a cause

Sir, I would not describe Mr Justice Mostyn as a rebel or a renegade for writing and applying judgments that it is unlawful to anonymise the parties to cases in the Family Court involving financial issues between divorcing couples ("Family judge rebels on anonymity", May 25). Rather, he is doing his job by examining the lawfulness of the power he is being invited to exercise. Judges who disagree can do the same by setting out their reasons for concluding that they can lawfully anonymise the names of the parties.

On the question of whether it is in the public interest to anonymise the parties to such financial cases, it is worth remembering that for years when such cases have been taken to the Court of Appeal the parties have regularly been named. This publicity (and its prospect under different rules) has not distorted proceedings or harmed public confidence. Rather, publicity has been a welcome, albeit weak, ray of sunshine.
Sir William Charles
Vice-president of the Court of Protection 2013-18; Richmond, Surrey

Bard's love of bowls

Sir, Jon Cockcroft, of Bowls England, is right that a remedy for the decline in membership of lawn bowls' clubs is to emphasise the leisure and social aspects of the sport ("Bowls throws its weight behind bid for younger cast", May 26). Next year Avon Bowls Club, Stratford-upon-Avon, celebrates its centenary. It does so in great heart and with a thriving community bowls programme that does not require membership and where tuition and equipment are supplied in a setting that is both social and informal.

Stratford has a true chronicler of the sport in William Shakespeare. In *Troilus and Cressida*, Pandarus advises the reluctant wooer, Troilus, to "kiss the mistress", a reference of proximity of bowl to jack. More directly, in Richard II, Queen Isabella complains of the "rubs" and "bias" of her situation in declining her maid's advice of a game of bowls. At Avon we know that the rubs sometimes run in your favour. And in the grand scheme of things, what does it matter as long as the sun shines, the kettle is on and the bar is open?
Kevin Hand
Stratford-upon-Avon

Small big words

Sir, Linguists have discovered that in most languages long words are used to describe small things and small words to describe large things ("Big words speak of our small wonders", May 26). Things are ordered better in Scotland, where it is long known that "mony a mickle maks a muckle" (many little things make a big thing).
Michael Pacione
Milton of Campsie, Glasgow

Flight of fancy

Sir, On my last trip to Greece I arrived at Gatwick with a large jar of Marmite ("Travel essentials", letter, May 26) as a present for my sister, who lived there. It was confiscated on the grounds that it was a liquid. What an insult.
Imogen Thomas
Saffron Walden, Essex

Antipodean tonic

Sir, I remember my grandfather also reciting the "Uncle Fred and Auntie Mabel" ditty (letters, May 25 & 26), though with George, not Fred. Years later I came across a second verse, of antipodean flavour, that is rather different from Judith Margaret Steiner's: "Now George is taking Vegemite/ And now George does it morn and night/ And George is hoping very soon/ To do it in the afternoon."
Miranda Corben
London SW13

Code of honour

Sir, Clive McGavin (letter, May 25) refers to the discreet notice in a London club asking gentlemen fitted with a rose to lift the seat. I believe it was Jonathan Miller who posed the question in *Beyond the Fringe* as to the meaning of the (less than discreet) and unpunctuated notice in the lavatories on British Railway's trains stating: "Gentlemen lift the seat." He wondered whether it meant that lifting the seat was part of the description of a gentleman, or if interpreted as "Gentlemen, lift the seat!" was it a call for a loyal toast, a military command or even an invitation to commit upper-class larceny?
Andrew Francis
Barrister, Serle Court, London WC2

THE STATE OF MODERN MARRIAGE

FROM THE TIMES MAY 27, 1923

There is no topic on which people are so ready to discourse as that of marriage, nor is there any subject about which positive assertions are more frequent or, as a rule, more untrustworthy. Since the war it has frequently been stated that the age of marriage both for men and women, but specially for men, has considerably increased. The anxieties of the times and the depression prevailing in industry lent colour to this assertion, which is still very widely believed. In his report, however, on the Vital Statistics for 1921, which is published today, the Registrar-General states that the ages now most frequently chosen for marriage are, in the case of men, twenty-four and, in the case of women, twenty-one. Youth, in other words, is still ready to accept the full responsibilities of life in spite of all the difficulties which may beset its path. Not only so, but the pessimism which, a few years ago, foretold a decline in the total number of marriages has found no justification. The very highest figure ever recorded was reached in 1920; in 1921 there was only a trifling declension. Indeed, except for the years 1915-19, the war years, and the year 1920, the rate just published has not been exceeded since 1874. These are signs of health in a community of the most unmistakable character, and afford solid ground for the idea that the stress and anxiety through which, as a people, we have passed have in no way detracted from our idealism or weakened our resolve. These "handsome figures" should be set against the 3,522 cases of divorce or annulment of marriage which took place in the year under review. That number has not, it is stated, been exceeded in any former year; but it amounts to only an insignificant proportion of the total number of marriages, and may properly be regarded as a "casualty rate" rather than as a symptom of ill-health. The present tendency to exaggerate every failure of marriage receives, in these figures, a necessary corrective. The conclusion would seem to be warranted that, as a whole, marriage is a successful state towards which youth is always straining, and in which, in spite of a multitude of difficulties and dangers, the vast majority of men and women in these islands live their lives in happiness and contentment.

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Daily Universal Register

UK: The three-day National Scrabble Championship kicks off in Hull.
France: The winner of the Palme d'Or award will be unveiled at the Cannes film festival.

Birthdays today



Henry Kissinger, *pictured*, US secretary of state (1973-77), 100; **Admiral of the Fleet Sir Benjamin Bathurst**, first sea lord and chief of naval staff (1993-95), 87; **Paul Bettany**, actor, *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* (2003), *The Da Vinci Code* (2006), 52; **Heston Blumenthal**, chef, 57; **Dee Dee Bridgewater**, jazz singer, *Good Morning Heartache* (2011), 73; **Rebekah Brooks**, chief executive, News UK, 55; **Pat Cash**, tennis player, Wimbledon men's singles winner (1987), 58; **Alina Cojocaru**, principal dancer, English National Ballet (2013-21), 42; **Tim Farron**, MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale, leader of the Liberal Democrats (2015-17), 53; **Joseph Fiennes**, actor, *Shakespeare in Love* (1998), 53; **Lord (Roger) Freeman**, vice-chairman, Conservative Party (1997-2001), 81; **Paul Gascoigne**, footballer, England (1988-98), 56; **David Mundell**, Conservative MP for Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale, 61; **Denise van Outen**, presenter, *The Big Breakfast* (1997-98), 49; **Miah Persson**, soprano, 54; **Jussi Pylkkänen**, global president, Christie's, 60; **Ravi Shastri**, cricketer, India (1981-92), head coach of India's national cricket team (2017-21), 61; **Donna Strickland**, optical physicist, Nobel laureate (2018), 64; **Sophie Walker**, founding leader, Women's Equality Party (2015-19), 52.

Birthdays tomorrow



Carey Mulligan, *pictured*, actress, *An Education* (2009), *Suffragette* (2015), 38; **David Baddiel**, comedian and writer, *Jews Don't Count* (2021), 59; **Minette Batters**, president, National Farmers' Union, 56; **Sir David Brewer**, lord-lieutenant of Greater London (2008-15), 83; **Brian Clarke**, author and journalist, fishing correspondent for The Times (1991-2018), 85; **Bernardine Evaristo**, author, *Girl, Woman, Other* (Booker prize, 2019), 64; **Phil Foden**, footballer, Manchester City FC and England, 23; **John Fogerty**, singer-songwriter, guitarist, Creedence Clearwater Revival, 78; **Rudy Giuliani**, mayor of New York city (1994-2001) and Donald Trump's former lawyer, 79; **Sue Holderness**, actress, *Only Fools and Horses* (1985-2003), 74; **Dara Khosrowshahi**, chief executive, Uber, 54; **Gladys Knight**, soul singer, *Midnight Train to Georgia* (1973), 79; **Michael McKirdy**, president, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 61; **Dame Janet Paraskeva**, chairwoman, Council for Licensed Conveyancers, 77; **Jonnie Peacock**, sprinter, two-time Paralympic gold medallist (2012, 2016), 30; **Stanley B Prusiner**, neurologist and biochemist, Nobel prizewinner (1997), 81; **Justin Russell**, HM chief inspector of probation, 58; **Dame Helena Shovelton**, chief executive, British Lung Foundation (2002-12), 78.

On this day

In **2015**, 14 football officials were arrested in Switzerland on corruption charges over the award of the 2018 and 2022 Fifa World Cups.

The last word

"If you are unhappy with anything … whatever is bringing you down, get rid of it. You'll find that when you're free, your true creativity, your true self comes out."
Tina Turner, US singer, *I, Tina* (1986)

The Gong Show

Britain's honours system is tainted by unfairness, cronyism and corruption. It must be made fit for those truly deserving of national recognition

If you fancy an OBE and live in Nottingham then you might want to consider moving to another part of the country. Figures released by the Cabinet Office show that the East Midlands is seriously disadvantaged when it comes to the distribution of honours. London, on the other hand, rakes in a fifth of all gongs, far more than is merited by its share of the population.

The honours system is to most Britons a mystery, its workings and criteria opaque. And when it does surface in the public consciousness it is often because of some dubious award to a political donor or a grating celebrity. It also turns out to be regionally biased, a defect the prime minister says he is determined to rectify in the latest incarnation of "levelling-up". But Rishi Sunak should do more than reform the geography of the honours system; he should reform it wholesale. And if justification for this assertion is needed it can be provided in two words: Boris Johnson.

The former prime minister is notoriously disdainful of the conventions governing public life, and this is illustrated vividly in his resignation honours list, long delayed in its publication due to behind-the-scenes negotiation. His inclusion of young Downing Street aides who were merely doing their jobs is galling enough. But it is the suggestion that his father, Stanley, is in line for a knighthood that sticks in the craw. There is no plausible reason in terms of public service for Mr Johnson Sr's inclusion on the list and, indeed, the accusation by his late wife of a physical attack should be sufficient grounds for disqualification. But it appears that his son has no qualms about this blatant nepotism and is pressing ahead regardless.

Of course, Mr Johnson Jr is not alone in using resignation honours to garland cronies. Harold Wilson had his (or rather his political secretary Marcia Falkender's) "lavender list". And, in a gesture worthy of Louis XIV's court, David Cameron was happy to include his wife's stylist among assorted Conservative party donors. A lifeboatman may risk his life year in, year out. But he will wait in vain for the knighthood bestowed on a No 10 spin doctor. Prime ministers should enjoy no right over honours. Baubles bestowed for favours or mere slavish loyalty debase the system.

So it is with the habitual granting of high honours to senior civil servants. These are dispensed frequently and invisibly. Permanent secretaries, some of whom sit on honours selection committees, routinely pick up the title of knight or dame to add to gold-plated pensions. And diplomats can look forward, depending on rank, to the ascending delights of the Order of St Michael and St George, CMG (Call me god), KCMG (Kindly call me god) and GCMG (God calls me god). And for what exactly? Doing one's job. As others do.

The British love of hierarchy, more hidden now, is alive and well in honours. There is a baroque collection of orders and medals, all carefully graded. At the bottom is the humble British Empire Medal, rising through M, O and CBE to the prized "front of name" titles that can ease one's entrance to the boardroom or airport VIP lounge. And at the summit of this imperial edifice is the life peerage, the ultimate form of settlement for a political IOU. Lloyd George, a flagrant trader in peerages, started the rot. A century later, in this newspaper today, Lord McFall of Alcluith, Speaker of the Lords, bemoans the promiscuous creation of peerages by prime ministers. Plus ça change.

The Cabinet Office makes much of the need for "inclusivity" in honours. This misses the point. One cannot "profile" or "quota" individual service. The country needs a simplified and transparent honours system supervised by non-government boards based around the country. And Liz Truss's resignation list should be the last. Honours are for courage, selflessness and going above and beyond. Not for back-scratching, time-serving and bungs.

Training Track

Managing immigration requires equipping the domestic workforce with more skills

Net migration to the UK reached a record high of 606,000 last year, despite Conservative pledges to cut it. Reducing this figure is a reasonable goal, requiring a long-term labour market strategy.

The surge in immigration is partly due to special factors, including an influx of foreign students and of refugees from Ukraine and Hong Kong. But the bigger reason is that employers have made extensive use of the post-Brexit system intended to attract skilled labour. This imposes a salary threshold under the main skilled-worker route but it has not reduced numbers of migrants. Rather, employers have been prepared to pay up for visas for skilled workers, even while labour shortages exist in other areas of the economy, such as hospitality.

Visa schemes are a short-term palliative for labour scarcity in specific sectors. They are not a long-term solution, as migrant workers create demand as well as fill gaps in supply. Nor does immigration necessarily expand GDP per capita. But to simultaneously damp demand for overseas workers while meeting the needs of manufacturing and service sectors will require boosting the skills of the domestic labour force. This is where government policy is wanting. As we report today, schools are increasingly looking overseas for staff in technical subjects where there is a shortage of qualified teachers at home, notably the natural sciences and maths. The NHS is also crucially dependent on overseas recruitment for nurses, junior doctors and other specialist roles. To shift the composition of the workforce towards domestic labour will require several things.

First, labour shortages are so stringent that they are deterring manufacturing industry from investing in technology and skills. Automation for firms is a big commitment: it requires substantial capital investment and the patience to wait for several years to realise the benefits. It is good economics for the government to provide tax incentives for capital investment; the long-term gain will be higher tax revenues and less reliance on unskilled overseas labour.

Second, industrial policy matters. The task is not to pick successful companies (which is beyond the capacity of government to ascertain) but to devote resources to training in broad sectors in which the economy already has particular advantages, notably knowledge-intensive industries, such as biotechnology, medicine and graphic design, for which there is sure to be future demand. And the apprenticeship levy, introduced on larger employers in 2017, to pay for training on and off the job, should be expanded.

Third, the government should expand medical school placements, to boost the domestic workforce of doctors, nurses and other specialists. At present the numbers of trainees are capped by clinical placements that are available; hence the need to recruit from overseas. Providing a clear career development programme in the NHS would also help to attract and retain staff. Fourth, to attract schoolteachers in subjects for which there is a shortfall, notably science and engineering, will require a more targeted use of bursaries to enhance the benefits of the profession.

Labour market policy is a legitimate role of government in a market economy. There should be a bipartisan approach to it in order to boost the skills and thereby the living standards of domestic workers. The mainstream political parties should be candid about what this will take to be effective.

Tethered Together

The first ascent of Everest 70 years ago was the definition of a team effort

On Monday it will be seven decades since Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay stood on the summit of the world's highest mountain. Hillary arrived first, with Tenzing joining him seconds later. The two men were linked by a 30ft rope, Tenzing explained in 1955, most of which he held coiled in loops, so he was just a few steps behind the New Zealander. It could have been the other way around. They had made the climb together, swapping the lead role every so often. "It is so unimportant that we never think of it," Hillary wrote.

He meant what he said. Both men regarded any focus on who got to the top first as not only inconsequential, but also evidence of a fundamental misunderstanding of the nature of a team effort. Both knew that below them, camped at various stages on Everest, were the other mountaineers, Sherpas, doctors, organisers and porters who had all contributed to their success. Given the vast months-long logistical challenge involved in laying siege to a mountain whose lower levels, never mind higher reaches, are precariously inaccessible, fixating on whose boot first crunched the ice at 29,031 feet was irrelevant to the men involved.

In a winning rowing eight, the bow does not claim more glory because they crossed the finish line before the stroke and the cox. Or only in jest, anyway.

Similarly, in a victorious — and harmonious — football team, the star striker will pay homage not just to his team-mates, but the support staff as well. Movie stars are usually similarly effusive about their less-renowned cast members and indeed the whole film crew. Those involved in collective enterprises, successful collective enterprises at any rate, are acutely aware they are one of many moving parts. All these years later, Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary still exemplify that admirable attitude.

Comment

Write to Feedback by emailing feedback@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Like, what does a chatbot know about clichés?

Rose Wild
Feedback



@TIMESFEEDBACK

Clichés have been in the news. Among the many tributes to Martin Amis, I was particularly taken with James Marriott's homage to Amis's critical essay collection, *The War Against Cliché*. For Amis, as James reminded us, good writing was not just an exercise in style and grammar, but imposed a moral responsibility on the writer to think better. The enemies to be toppled were, as Amis put it, "not just clichés of the pen, but clichés of the mind and clichés of the heart".

Not to mention clichés of the tongue, which became a prominent story last week after the Channel 4 *Countdown* presenter Susie Dent asked her Twitter followers which words or phrases drove them potty. The predictable outpouring of "going forward", "optics", "basically" and the rest prompted our leader writers to compose a leader written entirely in clichés, which David Lyall wrote from London SW3 to say was "a masterpiece". He had his own contribution — "front and centre" — to the lexicon of shame, as would we all. A week never passes without some fulmination in the Feedback mailbox about tired and overworked abuse of language.

"Going forward" came top of what Dent said was her "unscientific analysis", which makes one wonder why, if people mind it so much, we are subjected to it all the time. Anyway, I wondered what a scientific analysis would look like, so I asked the all-knowing chatbot, GPT-4, for its verdict on what the most annoying words in English. Unlike humans, chatbots don't have ears for steam to pour out of, so its reply was somewhat bland. "Perceptions of which words are most 'annoying' can vary greatly from person to person and are often influenced by factors such as regional dialect, personal experience, and cultural context."

Fair enough. It went on to identify words or phrases perceived as "annoying" or "irritating". Top of the pile was "literally", closely followed by "like — as a filler word or verbal tic", "actually — sometimes seen as condescending or pedantic when used excessively", "whatever — can be seen as dismissive or rude", "at the end of the day", "with all due respect", "touch base", etc.

So far so good, but when I specified that I wanted British English, things got a bit weird. Number one was "innit", "an abbreviation of 'isn't it' often used as a rhetorical tag question or filler phrase". When did anyone last see a complaint about that? "Can I get" for "May I have" was more convincing — "This phrase is considered annoying by some because it is viewed as an Americanism that has infiltrated British English."

And no arguments at all with No 8. "Your call is important to us" — "A phrase often heard during long wait times on customer service phone lines, which can seem insincere" — although I did feel like pointing out to GPT-4 that since the phrase is being repeated by a robot, questions about its sincerity seem a bit beside the point. Then I remembered who I was talking to.

Scottish gangs

Is it a cliché to refer to the best laid schemes of mice and men? Surely yes. I think Burns's poem, *To a Mouse*, has probably spawned more quotations and misquotations than anything else since *Hamlet*.

The Diary suggested last week that Carrie Johnson's plan to stop at three children might be "another best-laid plan that gangs aft agley". This prompted Stephanie Segal to write, "I had to google 'gangs aft agley' to discover its origins. I had never heard the expression before."

She's in good company. Bertie Wooster was similarly perplexed when Jeeves tried to warn him off some matchmaking enterprise, in *Jeeves in the Offing*. "'I mistrust these elaborate schemes. As the poet Burns says, the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft agley.'"

PG Wodehouse was fond of Burns quotes and used them liberally. On this occasion Wooster responds, "'Scotch, isn't it, that word?'

'Yes, sir.'

'I thought as much. The "gang" told the story. Why do Scotsmen say gang?'

'I have no information, sir. They have not confided in me.'"

If only Jeeves had been able to google he could have found out for himself that the Scots "gang" for "go" is the same word as in Swedish — gånga ("to walk, go") — Icelandic and Faroese. "Agley" means "askew" or "squint", but is most often used, as in Burns, for "gone awry".

Bants are good

I said last week I was sorry the word "banting", from William Banting's 1862 diet book, had disappeared from common English. Little did I know that it is thriving elsewhere.

Avril Mailer wrote to say banting is all the rage in South Africa, thanks to a professor from Cape Town who has updated the diet plan for today's market. And — Sweden again — Bill Evans adds, "The English language may have forgotten, but in Swedish the verb 'to slim' is still 'att banta'."

Patrick Buckley corroborates this: "Banting," he writes, "was the form of the word given in the 1899 edition of the Swedish Academy dictionary, and now bantning is current." He even found "bantningsmedel" (slimming pill) in an Arne Dahl whodunnit. There's immortality for Mr Banting after all.

New spin on baseball

'When," asks Stephen Lockwood, "did The Times decide to use American sporting metaphors rather than their established British versions, eg, curveball rather than yorker, and step up to the plate, rather than up to the crease?"

There hasn't been any decision as such, but I must say that, for those of us who aren't sporting buffs, those baseball terms seem more self-explanatory than the cricketing ones. It may be unpatriotic to say so, but I wonder how many people know how yorkers work nowadays.



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Sparky the Goldfish, aged 22, has better recall than parliament's pundits

Matt Chorley



TIMES RADIO
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Sparky the Goldfish is still going strong, aged 22. Merseyside mum Nicol Arathoon revealed this week that she nursed him back to health using a straw to push peas into his mouth. It's a good job she did. Even allowing for his innate memory issues, Sparky probably has better recall of anything that happened in British politics than most supposed experts, swimming open-mouthed around the Westminster bowl, declaring everything unprecedented and extraordinary, the like of which we have never seen before. When we have. About five minutes ago.

Sparky the Goldfish is still going strong, aged 22. "I can't think of a single Conservative who reminds me of Chris Huhne," remarked Michael Gove last week, reminiscing about the coalition days. And then speeding round the corner comes Suella Braverman, closely followed by Robert Jenrick, the immigration minister, currently serving a six-month ban, and Tom Tugendhat, whose own six-month ban has just ended. Unprecedented indeed.

Sparky the Goldfish is still going strong aged 22. An unprecedented home secretary beleaguered by unprecedented headlines. Tell that to Jacqui Smith, unprecedented in the questions over what she was doing on illegal immigration and her private judgment (come on, porn on expenses is *so* much better than a speed awareness course).

Sparky the Goldfish is still going strong, aged 22. Braverman's unprecedented leadership campaign is already up and running. If sacked, she is going to "machinegun Sunak from the back benches". More likely, machinegun herself in the foot. But she really is on unprecedented leadership manoeuvres. You'd have to remember all the way back to last July to recall that her last tilt at the top job secured the support of 27 colleagues. More on the bus than she has ever put on a plane, but come on.

Sparky the Goldfish is still going strong, aged 22. Two parties were dominating. Then coalitions were here to stay. Until the Tories got a majority. Then the Tories were finished. And then they won. And then Labour were finished. And now they're back. What would happen if there's a hung parliament? Can you imagine? Chaos! So many unprecedented, unpredictable outcomes. Except there is only one: a hung parliament means Starmer is PM. End of.

Sparky the Goldfish is still going strong, aged 22. Ah, but nobody knows who Ed Davey is! Ha ha! Good one! In 2010 so few people knew who Nick Clegg was they had to put Vince Cable on the side of the battlebus to jog people's memories. And who ended up as deputy PM?

Sparky the Goldfish is still going strong, aged 22. At least Sparky would know that Boris Johnson is not "right-wing". And that his "allies" are either on his payroll or waiting on a peerage. And that nobody is putting in letters to the 1922. And there is no such thing as a DUP-swing voter. And that a party that once dominated Scotland can be wiped out. And that Gordon Brown's former henchmen Douglas Alexander and Tom Watson are not "Blairites". And that Geoff Hoon will tell you that not all coups work. I'm not even that old but I was there. Or you can read a book. Just remember this: *Sparky the Goldfish is still going strong, aged 22.*

It's time to kick the pulpit out of politics

Justin Welby has been a feeble leader of the C of E, so why are he and his fellow bishops free to pontificate in the Lords?

AN Wilson



ROGER HARRIS/PA; ALAMY





The archbishop tabled two amendments to the immigration bill. Left, Pepys disliked "meddling clergy"

It has been a strange month for the Church of England, by Law Established. On May 6, we saw the "vast moth-eaten musical brocade" (Larkin's phrase) at its most beautiful, in Westminster Abbey. The Archbishop of Canterbury placed the crown upon our monarch's head, thereby demonstrating the centrality of the sacral in our national life. And then, only a few days later, clad in the court dress of a bishop in the reign of Edward VI, Welby was standing in the House of Lords denouncing the Illegal Migration Bill.

Justin Welby, by Law Established, has not merely spoken about this painful matter. He has actually tabled two amendments to the bill, as it reaches committee stage in the upper house. "Those who sit on the bishops' bench will not abandon our duty to point out when governments propose legislation that is impractical or immoral," he said. "We will not abandon the most vulnerable people that Jesus Christ specifically calls us to love."

Quite why Jesus should be in favour of helping Albanian criminals exploit vulnerable refugees, it is apparently not in the Archbishop's remit to explain.

Is there anything about Welby's career that suggests we should trust his capacity for intelligent moral judgment? Has any such authority been demonstrated by his association, over many years, with the creepy evangelical movement known as Soul Survivor? Allegations made against the group's leader, Mike Pilavachi, by innumerable young men who say they suffered emotional abuse have led to Welby offering prayers for those affected and support for an investigation. Yet in 2020, Welby recognised Pilavachi with an award "for his outstanding contribution to evangelism and discipleship amongst young people in the United Kingdom".

Similar questions about his judgment were raised by his involvement with the spanker John Smyth QC, who abused boys and young men at the Iwerne Trust holiday camps, at which Welby worked as a junior officer during the 1970s. Among those who stayed at the camps was Nicky Gumbel, the founder of the Alpha Course.

Once again, Welby knew nothing of Smyth's proclivities. If we accept this as true, then we must conclude that the Archbishop is a moral idiot who did not see anything untoward about a clear, obvious sexual pervert who abused dozens, probably hundreds, of boys.

If these are examples of Welby's capacity to make moral judgments, why should we listen to him when he is talking about the Illegal Immigration Bill? It is not, however, of the bill that I want to write. Welby's views are foolish but that is not the point. What we want to know is why should he be allowed to express these views in the House of Lords?

When Tony Blair began his ham-fisted reform of the upper house, he reduced the hereditary element to a self-elected rump; and the great majority of the peers are now political appointees — many of them of an embarrassingly low level of intelligence or merit.

The Lords Spiritual, however, were allowed to remain. Why? The majority of practising, churchgoing Christians in this country are not Anglicans but Roman Catholics. An ever-growing number of British people are secularists, with no religious affiliation. We do not allot or allow special seats in our second chamber to rabbis, imams, shamans or ministers of the whirling dervish community. What on earth are the C of E bishops still doing there? What they are doing, with the Illegal Migration Bill, is trying to prevent the enactment of legislation by the government, which has been democratically elected. It is perfectly in order for Labour, Lib Dem and other secular peers to shove their oar in. It is part of their job to question the wisdom of proposed legislation sent up for their scrutiny by the Commons. For the bishops to do so, however, is impertinent. Worse than impertinent when they start claiming their views reflect those of one who said that the poor shall always be with us and whose kingdom was not of this world.

What Welby has done is to send our minds back to his earlier Westminster appearance this month. In so far as he introduced innovations into the ancient ceremony, they were crass. No one wanted to hear his sermon, delivered in that somehow unfortunate voice. And the decision to ask everyone to swear allegiance to the King while sitting in front of their telly with a slice of coronation quiche was absolutely cringeworthy.

It was worthy of his lockdown Easter communion, celebrated in his kitchen with the toaster and dishcloths unhelpfully displayed behind him. And all of a piece, unfortunately, with the catalogue of mistakes Welby has made since becoming Archbishop: his waging war on the parish structure of the church being only one.

What Welby has achieved this month is to make many people, including observant Anglicans such as myself, question the establishment of the Church of England. However moving the coronation may have been, it surely was not appropriate that it should have been conducted by representatives of a minority branch of what has become a minority religion in Britain. And as for the behaviour of the bishops since, in the second chamber, it has only served to make us queasy.

For those of us who enjoy

> His war on the parish structure is one of a catalogue of mistakes

anniversaries, this week marked the significant resignation, on May 25, 1659, of Richard Cromwell, our Lord Protector. After the younger Cromwell resigned, it was only a matter of time before the monarchy was restored and, with it, the established church. Samuel Pepys in his diary was only one of many who had his doubts about the wisdom of this. When he first watched the bishops processing to the Lords, he thought they made a sorry spectacle.

On another occasion, he noted: "To White Hall chapel… Here I heard very good music, the first time that ever I remember to have heard the organs and singing-men in surplices in my life. The Bishop of Chichester preached before the King, and made a great flattering sermon, which I did not like that Clergy should meddle with matters of state."

It is not difficult to imagine what Pepys would have made of Welby. Indeed, whenever I see bishops meddling in matters of state in their penguin-outfits in the Lords, I think of Oliver Cromwell's famous injunction to the Rump Parliament: "In the name of God, go!"

WEEKEND ESSAY

How Turkey's second century is being shaped by Erdogan

The Islamist president has thrived on exploiting religious and ethnic fault lines. Victory tomorrow would further bury the country's secular roots and raise questions about its future as a western ally, writes **Hannah Lucinda Smith** in Istanbul



This month I stood on the runway of Istanbul's old Ataturk airport, watching a largely black-clad crowd troop past as they pumped their fists in the air. Every minute, someone would cry: "Takbir!", and the rest would respond "Allahu Akbar!": God is great. In between, they chanted the name of the man they had come in their hundreds of thousands to see: Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

These Turks are the faithful who have propelled Erdogan, 69, to two decades of straight election victories and look set to do so again tomorrow. Erdogan is almost certain to beat his rival, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, in the presidential election run-off. His popularity has fallen and his methods have grown more autocratic. But to his fiercest devotees, Erdogan is not a politician but a prophet: a man who came from the fringes, rising from one of Istanbul's poorest neighbourhoods to become the country's all-conquering Islamist. Riding the metro on the way to the Istanbul rally, I sat opposite a woman who was taking her young daughter to the event. "Will I see him?" the little girl asked. Her mother smiled down at her. "Yes, you'll see him," she said.



Seeing him in a literal sense was unlikely. The fenced-off stage area was so full that there was a crush even to get near its gates. The tens of thousands left outside the fence were content to mill on the tarmac or sit in the shade underneath the terminal's old gate bridges, listening to the familiar voice booming through huge speakers, as if it was coming from the clouds. There were women in black chadors and some in tesettür, the modern conservative style of colourful long coat and sharply folded matching headscarf that has become popular in the cities. There were men in robes and turbans alongside others in T-shirts, jeans and bandanas inscribed with the president's name. Children waved the flag of his party, yelping and laughing as though they were on a day at the fair. Erdogan was an invisible figure on a stage 200m away, but being in his presence was enough.

Turkey's enthusiasm for an Islamist may seem baffling. It is a secular country by constitution and from certain angles that is how it looks. If you have visited Turkey, as about three million Britons do each year, you might have headed for the western coasts, where European and Russian tourists sunbathe in micro-bikinis and pack the upmarket restaurants and rowdy clubs. If you were in Istanbul you probably wandered the historic inner districts, where you can walk from the holiest sites to the bars and shopping arcades in minutes. Erdogan's heartlands are hidden away behind Turkey's shop fronts, in Anatolia's vast conservative interior and peripheral suburbs of cities.

They are the poorest parts of the country, the places that, ironically, developed least during the past two decades of Erdogan's rule. They include provinces devastated in the February earthquakes, which killed more than 50,000 people. Look at Turkey's election map and you'll see that its pattern follows that of the US: opposition strongholds lining its western coast and the Kurdish-majority eastern fringe, and a swathe in the middle supporting Erdogan. Istanbul, a microcosm of Turkey, is split. Many of its outer districts are *gecekondu*, illegally built shanty towns where there is little green space and few amenities apart from the mosque. These are places that run on different rules to their secular neighbours — a sweep of the country where politics runs in families, religious sects wield huge social power and Erdogan's party targets state welfare to the districts that vote for him. His methods work. Turkey is gripped by soaring inflation and the earthquakes revealed gaping holes in the state's disaster preparations. Yet he remains the most popular politician in the country, still able secure the support of half the electorate after 20 years in power.

The other half of the country is increasingly terrified by Erdogan's Turkey. Secular women look on in horror at their shrouded countrywomen and see their president as an existential threat. Femicide is on the rise and Erdogan pulled Turkey out of the Istanbul convention against gender-based violence last year. He and his clerics denounce LGBT people. Minorities including the Alevi, followers of a liberal branch of Islam, shudder at his hardline rhetoric. Mostly these Turks choose to avoid the other side. Returning from the rally to my own Istanbul neighbourhood, a liberal opposition stronghold where it is rare to see a covered woman, I stopped to have coffee with a friend. "How was it?" he asked. A moment later he changed his mind: "Actually, I don't want to know."



Erdogan turned the Hagia Sophia, built as the seat of eastern Christianity, back into a mosque after Turkey's founder Ataturk, left, made it a museum in 1935. Despite anger over the government's response to the earthquakes in February, below, the president has maintained support

Turkey is a country of fault lines: fractures between Turks and Kurds, Turks and other minorities, nationalists and leftists and others that cleave its politics into antagonistic factions. Its deepest and most bitter fault has been active since the birth of the Turkish republic: the division between secular Turks and their conservative compatriots, who wage a battle of private lives and personal choice that, in Erdogan's era, has leaked into politics and the streets.

Kemal Ataturk, who founded the republic in 1923, was a heavy drinker and womaniser who banished Islam from public life. His vision for Turkey was a westward-looking nation, where women would throw off the headscarf and enter the workplace, and a




GETTY IMAGES; REFIK TEKIN/EPA

champagne-sipping elite would attend the opera in ballgowns. For eight decades an Ataturkist cabal in the state and military kept the upper hand in Turkish politics and society. Every time an Islamist politician rose too high, the army and the courts brought them down. Turkey's conservative masses were kept on the margins: impoverished, disenfranchised, embittered — and waiting on their chance for revenge.

Erdogan first rose to fame as mayor of Istanbul in the 1990s. In office he was imprisoned and banned from politics for reading a religious poem at a rally. Yet this charismatic young Islamist already had a popular movement behind him. He captured the hearts of Turkey's religious masses with his rousing, defiant speeches, and they turned out in their thousands to greet him when he was released from prison.

Turkey at the turn of the millennium was in the grip of an economic crisis and had been ruled by ineffective coalitions for a decade. The AKP, the party Erdogan co-founded on his release, promised a new start and took an outright majority in elections in 2002. Five months later, parliament overturned Erdogan's ban and he became prime minister.

He brought Islam back into the state bit by bit, expanding religious schools and lifting Turkey's long ban on the headscarf in universities and public office, the law that politicised a generation of pious women. New mosques appeared everywhere: in villages, public buildings and, as time progressed, in the most prestigious locations in the country. In 2020 he turned the Hagia Sophia, built as the seat of eastern Christianity, back into a mosque after 86 years as a deconsecrated museum. In the first Friday prayers he sat on the front row of a crowd of worshippers that spilled out of Hagia Sophia's cavernous space and filled the huge plaza outside.

He used his popular support to castrate the military and anyone else who might block his mission. Erdogan forced the generals to accept Abdullah Gul, his party co-founder, as president — the first head of state with a headscarved wife — then used a series of trials to sap their power. A failed coup in 2016 allowed him to clear out his opponents en masse: hundreds of thousands of people were arrested or dismissed from the public sector. Having changed the constitution to concentrate power with the president, Erdogan now rules like a Sun King from his 1,000-room palace, issuing direct orders to his ministers. He has handed state institutions to the religious sects. All the AKP co-founders have defected.

To his fanatics, none of it matters: Erdogan is the true believer who stands up for Muslims against their oppressors. One of his campaign videos shows generations of one family working in a shop in the shadow of Hagia Sophia, unable to pray inside it until finally, their saviour changes that. In Kasimpasa, his home district, some people tell me they expect him to win with 53 per cent, a sure sign from Sultan Mehmed, who conquered Istanbul in 1453 and was the first Muslim victor to turn Hagia Sophia into a mosque.

His staying power is partly down to timing. He rose to power just as the old secular order was collapsing and benefited from cheap global credit that buoyed his impoverished base into middle-class consumerism. His turn towards overt Islamism a decade into his rule came at the moment Muslim grievance was rising everywhere. The Arab Spring, then the removal of Mohamed Morsi, Egypt's first Muslim Brotherhood prime minister; Bashar al-Assad's spiralling slaughter in Syria; Israel's escalating attacks on the Palestinians — Erdogan used them all to promote himself as the protector of Muslims not just in Turkey, but everywhere. Under his patronage, Istanbul became the meeting point for the world's Islamists: Hamas leaders and Brotherhood members in exile from Egypt, Syria and Yemen bought apartments in sprawling gated districts and opened media channels and think tanks. They revelled in the freedom they found in Erdogan's Turkey, even as Turkish journalists and academics were persecuted, imprisoned and driven into exile for criticising the president. TRT World, the English-language version of Turkey's state broadcaster, sells a narrative of Islamic victimhood to Muslims worldwide. Tourists from the Muslim world now flock to Turkey, pulled by its glossy *Ottoman* television series and its president. Many of them holiday in new halal resorts sprouting quietly amid the package holiday fleshpots. A decade ago, Taksim Square in the centre of Istanbul was the scene of mass protests against Erdogan. Now it is dominated by his huge new mosque, and the alcohol-fuelled nightlife that once soaked the winding alleyways around it is slowly dying, replaced by baklava shops and the sweet smell of hookah smoke.

“Erdogan has learnt how to exploit every fracture and play on every fear to gather enough support to keep winning

This election year is symbolic. In October, Turkey will celebrate the centenary of the republic — a hundred years bookended by two transformative leaders. Erdogan has made the year his target: to build new warships and tanks, become one of the world's ten biggest economies and build new schools and universities. Big promises, big spending. His main aim is to secure himself another five-year term. He is already the longest serving leader in modern Turkish history and an entire generation cannot remember any other.

Erdogan has sought to unravel much of what Ataturk set in place, yet in one sense he has not been as successful as he would like. Mosque attendance has remained constant throughout his rule, and despite his dream to raise a pious generation of young Turks, most kick back against religious dogmatism. Alcohol has become a political marker rather than a public health issue: drinking Turks grumble that the punitive taxes they pay on alcohol go straight to the Diyanet, the state religious body. The Ramadan fast is observed by many Turks but rarely enforced in public spaces.

Erdogan has also turned Turkey from a nation that was firmly aligned with the West to one that often looks like an unreliable ally. He has alienated Israel, and although Turkey is a Nato member, his friendship with President Putin and purchase of a Russian missile defence system has called the country's loyalty into question. He boasts of making Turkey a mediator, one of the only powers in the world able to bring Russia and Ukraine to the negotiating table, but he is also, for domestic advantage, slowing down Sweden's accession to Nato. Turkey is still officially an EU candidate country, but he uses the millions of refugees that it is hosting to threaten the bloc, vowing to open his borders if Brussels does not adhere to his demands.

Populists win by polarising, and Erdogan's success has been to widen his country's defining social division. There are no walls separating Turkey's conservatives from its secularists but they are strangers to each other: living in different neighbourhoods, working in different sectors, passing their leisure time in different ways.

Regularly, I hear the same refrain from my Turkish friends and neighbours: we are going to be like Iran. It never sounds quite right: how could this country, where half the population is determined to carry on dressing how they please and drinking what they like, succumb to full Islamic theocracy? Is it even worth it for Erdogan to try? And yet we thought Erdogan wouldn't invade Syria — until he did. We thought he wouldn't build a mosque in Taksim — until he did. We thought his vows to turn Hagia Sophia into a mosque were just populist bluster.

In recent years Erdogan the politician has looked more like an old-style Turkish nationalist. He has allied with the far right and rebooted the war on Kurdish militancy. He is stirring old grievances with Greece and Cyprus. He claims to have made Turkey a great world power, even as its international standing has slipped. In a country where independent media has been almost silenced, it is easy to convert flag-waving into ballot-box victory. Throughout his two decades as Turkey's leader, Erdogan has learnt how to exploit every fracture and play on every fear to gather enough support to keep winning.

Erdogan the prophet can always rely on his base. His fanatics do not form a majority in Turkey but neither are they marginal: their numbers are enough to give him a head start of about 30 per cent every time he goes to the polls. For years, the secularists took Ataturk as their talisman in lieu of any charismatic leader of their own but as time passes he is becoming less visible, and there are large parts of Turkey that his reforms never touched. Now, these are the places where power is forged and Erdogan's grip there has never been stronger. To remain their leader he must keep them galvanised. Turkey's first century was defined by Ataturk's experiment in secularism. Depending on tomorrow's outcome, its second may belong to Erdogan.


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‘Whiter than white’ remark ruled not racist

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A black manager working on the high speed rail link project between London and Birmingham sued for discrimination after claiming that the phrase “whiter than white” was racist.

Sharon Goodison alleged that her boss’s use of the expression in reference to the project was offensive because it implied that “white is good, black is bad”. Goodison, a compliance manager, told an employment tribunal in London that the phrase has had “racial connotations” for her throughout her life.

She had warned her boss, Laura Day, that a police officer had been disciplined for using the expression. Day apologised to Goodison for any offence caused.

The tribunal has dismissed Goodison’s claim of discrimination after finding that Day’s use of the expression was not related to race but an “apposite” comment regarding the behaviour of HS2 in relation to its contractual obligations. The phrase is thought to have originated in a Shakespeare poem and has become understood in modern parlance to mean being above criticism.

Goodison worked for the high-speed rail company between 2017 and 2021. She was said to have compared her working environment to being with “an abusive boyfriend” who had “bullied, disrespected, racially discriminated, disrespected, and disempowered me”.



Sharon Goodison claimed her boss at HS2 had used an offensive term

In 2021, Day was understood to have said that “HS2 aren’t whiter than white here” in relation to the company’s adherence to the terms of a contract. In a meeting with Day, Goodison said that while she understood the point being made the “not whiter than white” phrase had racial connotations.

She raised the possibility that her boss had shown unconscious racial bias, to which Day was said to have responded: “I was talking about HS2 not complying with a contract. It had nothing to do with race.”

Goodison submitted grievances about her alleged mistreatment at work but the internal investigation took nine months. She said the delay led to “high levels of anxiety, weight loss and trouble sleeping” and she resigned without notice in 2021. She sued HS2 for race discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as constructive unfair dismissal. The panel rejected the discrimination claim, ruling that Goodison was “overly critical” of her manager.

Judge Jillian Brown said the phrase whiter than white “did not relate to [Goodison], nor to anyone’s race, but the [company’s] failure to fulfil its contractual obligations. While [Goodison] contended that the phrase reflected ‘white is good, and black is bad’, the tribunal considered that ‘black’ was not mentioned, nor implied …”

However, the tribunal ruled that HS2 bosses had taken too long to complete the grievance process and awarded Goodison about £7,600 in compensation for constructive unfair dismissal.

MARILYN KINGWILL



Maureen Lipman’s engaging company elevates the monologue’s wisecracks

Lipman brings shadow of history into sharp focus

Theatre Clive Davis

Rose
Ambassadors Theatre, WC2
★★★☆☆

Maureen Lipman is perfect casting — almost too perfect, in fact — for this role. Martin Sherman’s monologue, originally staged at the National in 1999, presents us with an elderly Jewish woman, born in a shtetl in Ukraine, who has seen the worst the 20th century has to offer but still manages to find a sliver of humour in the darkest moments.

Sometimes the wisecracks come a little too easily, but Lipman remains such engaging company that you are compelled to keep listening. I’d already seen the streaming version during the run at Manchester’s Hope Mill Theatre during the pandemic. The Russian invasion of Ukraine seems to have brought Rose’s early years into even sharper focus; she is not talking about a faraway country of which we know little.

Settling in Poland before the Germans attack, she ends up in the Warsaw ghetto. Her account of the suffering — her daughter is one of the victims — is no less effective for being so calm and understated. And after she begins a new life in America — taken there by her second husband, Sonny — she brings us the sights and smells of postwar Atlantic City, where she finds a measure of prosperity yet discovers that her Jewish neighbours are not eager to hear about the Holocaust.

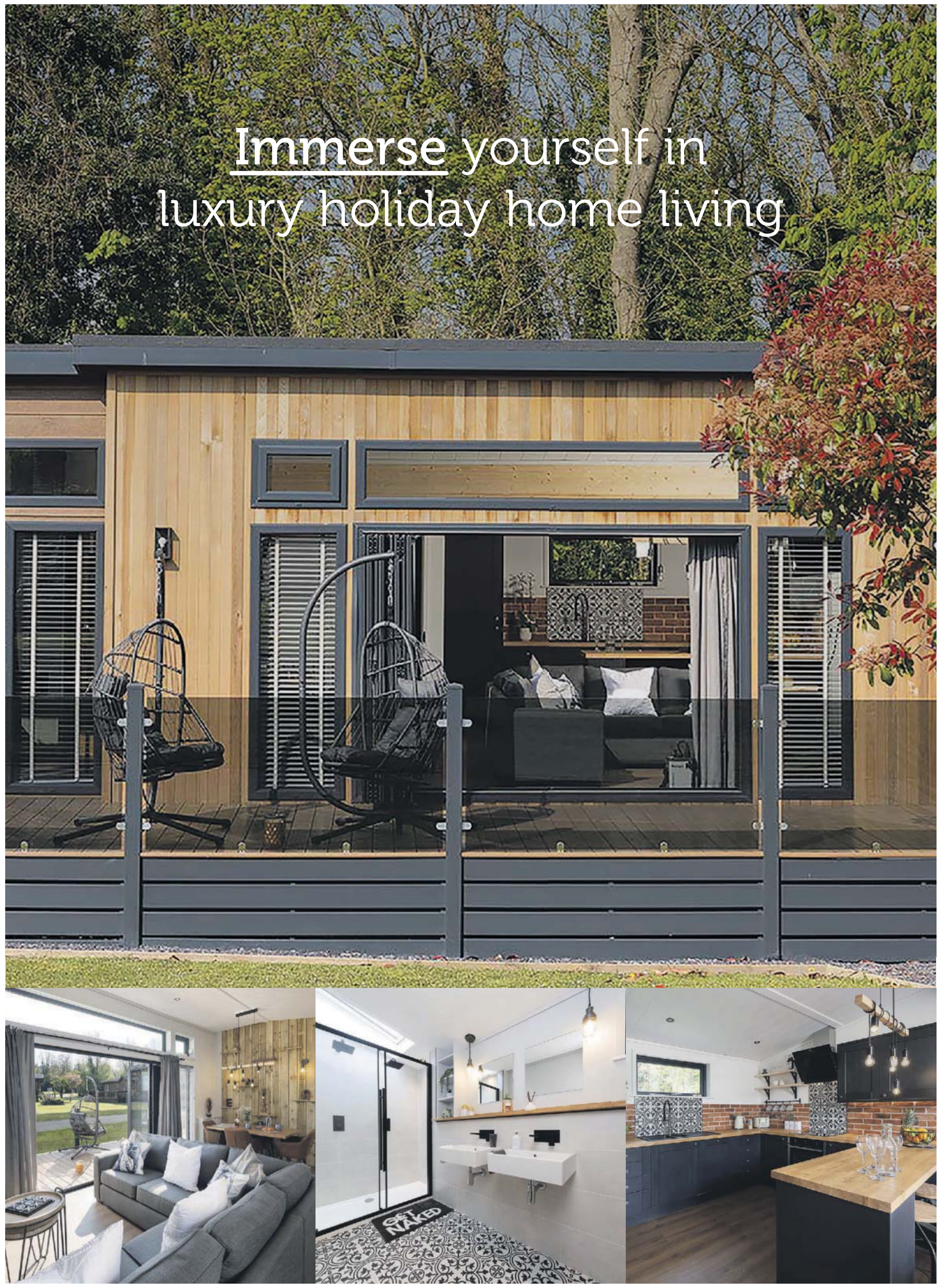
Perched on a wooden bench as the old lady sits shiva for the dead, Lipman makes it all so real, so tangible. Why, then, did the mood falter as the script wound its way to its defiant conclusion? Partly because Rose risks becoming too much of a Jewish Everywoman, first a symbol of the Shoah, then the repository of optimism about the new-born state of Israel, before becoming a disenchanted liberal onlooker, appalled at how, as she sees it, the country’s founding ideals have been betrayed. Just occasionally, she begins to sound like the voice of Arthur Miller’s memoirs.

It’s the more intimate details that are most potent. Rose isn’t shy about talking about sex, and there’s an extraordinary moment when she describes the strange frenzy that erupts in her when she wants to reconnect with the spirit of her first husband, the wayward artist Yussul.

Director Scott Le Crass oversees unobtrusive sound effects and subtle changes of lighting. When Rose moves to Miami, we can feel the heat burning off the streets. (To be honest, my seat in the Ambassadors’ cramped circle felt almost as uncomfortable as her bench.)

In between her recollections, she sips water and takes the many pills to treat her ailments. Brave enough to stare death in the face, she has come to terms with not belonging anywhere. Perhaps, in the end, there is no promised land.

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‘Air pollution came and slapped me

Sadiq Khan is determined to make London clean up its act and expects no less from the head of Scotland Yard, he tells **Andrew Billen**

A few days before I meet the mayor of London, I run into a former Labour MP who knew him in the Commons. His observation was that Sadiq Khan did not believe in anything beyond his own career. It’s harder to make that charge this week. Seven years since trading Westminster for City Hall, and already gearing up to fight for a third term as mayor, Khan has published a short, well-written, sometimes amusing book titled *Breathe: Tackling the Climate Emergency*. Half memoir, half manifesto, it positions him as Britain’s ultra-green politician — a breath of fresh air unless you are in outer London and fuming at the prospect this summer of paying £12.50 a day to drive your non-compliant car through your own neighbourhood.

We talk in a café at the Tate Modern, the art gallery carved from the Bankside Power Station whose closure was, as Khan points out, one reason there are now fewer smoggy days in London town. I point out that the New Statesman, which last week placed Khan number 17 in its “left power list”, between Tony Blair and Sir Keir Starmer’s strategy director Deborah Mattinson (“Both great people!”), believes he had struggled to “define” his administration. Is it fair to say that until he found environmentalism he was a politician without a cause?

“I think that’s very fair,” he says. “And it’s also very fair to say this is self-interest. Basically, air pollution came up to me and slapped me in the face by giving me asthma. In a parallel universe where I’ve not been diagnosed with asthma, where I’ve not discovered Ella and I’ve not discovered Rosamund, then I’m still someone who doesn’t think about this stuff.”

Ella is Ella Roberta Adoo-Kissi Debrah, a nine-year-old who lived on London’s South Circular Road and died of asthma in 2013. After a long campaign by her mother Rosamund, in 2020 she became the first person in the UK whose death certificate listed “air pollution” as a cause of death. Rosamund, he says, believes Ella would be alive today had she been brought up in the era of his Ultra Low Emission Zone (Ulez).

And London’s exhaust-filled air made his own asthma worse? “We think I got asthma because of the air pollution,” he says, explaining that he had never had it before running along London’s streets in training for the 2014 London Marathon.

“A few months afterwards I realised I was clearing my throat a lot. When I was running fast, playing football, running long distances, going for a jog, I’d end up wheezing. I first thought I was just unfit. I then went to the doctor and she diagnosed adult onset asthma, and that’s attributable to the toxic air we’re breathing in.”

I don’t actually accuse his green conversion of being a branding exercise but he knows what I am getting at. “Listen, I’ve always been motivated by social justice.”

In his previous career as a human rights lawyer? “Yes, I’ve always been passionate about fighting social injustice, fighting racial injustice, and the great thing about tackling climate change and air pollution is, if you did a Venn diagram, there’s a nice overlap of all these issue.

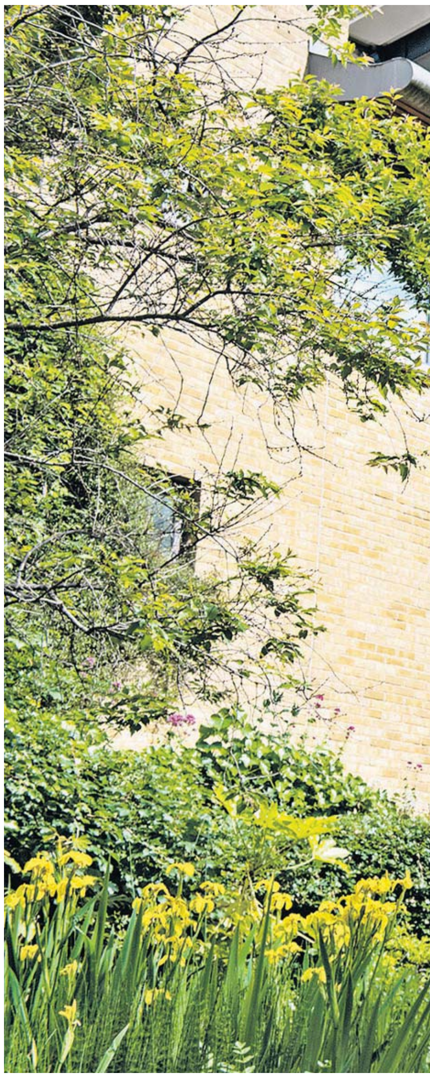
“On a micro level in London, those least responsible and don’t own a car, suffer the worst consequences of air pollution and those who live by the main road tend to be black Londoners.

“But look, I’m not the perfect green activist. I’m not vegan. I don’t always eat organic food. I still fly.”

How did he travel here this afternoon? “Tube. Today I’ve used the Elizabeth Line, the Jubilee Line, and DLR. The great thing about London is you’ve got great public transport.”

He admits to being competitive – from a milk-drinking competition with his six brothers growing up in south London, the sons of an immigrant Pakistani bus driver – to running successfully in 2021 to chair C40 Cities, a club of almost 100 green-tinted mayors around the world. The prize Ulez could deliver is great, he argues, because fewer car emissions reduce both poor health and greenhouse gases. Khan, 52, who took biology, chemistry and maths A Level, is more vocal on lungs than climate change simply because it is a more immediate sell.

Even so, there are easier ways to court popularity than forcing outer Londoners to replace their cars or pay to drive their old ones. Four London boroughs are taking him to court over the Ulez expansion. “The Conservative ones! There are five Conservative councils taking me to court. Four in London — Havering, Harrow, Bexley and Bromley — and one in Surrey. All five are conservative. This is party politics.”



Sadiq Khan says that he will judge the Met

He says in other cities, such as Oxford which is introducing street-blocking low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs), “a vocal minority” is “drowning out “the silent majority”.

He sounds like President Nixon, who invented that soundbite! “Except the difference is I have right on my side. Nixon didn’t. But here’s the point. You’ve got people with genuine concerns about LTNs or about Ulez and they’ve got genuine concerns which deserve respect and should be responded to. But latching on to them are Covid-deniers anti-vaxers, anti-lockdown people.”

The fight is winnable. “When I first embarked on this journey in 2017, only 39 per cent of vehicles were Ulez compliant, which means they pay no money. It’s now 94 per cent in inner London, 90 per cent in outer London.”

Khan is the opposite of his mayoral predecessor Boris Johnson. He is a fast-talking details man, always in motion. He survives on a Thatcherite five or six hours’ sleep and looks tired.

Otherwise he seems well, and trim. Yet *Breathe*’s great revelation is that while addressing a Cop26 event in Glasgow in November 2021, he very likely suffered a minor heart attack. He began to sweat, felt his chest tighten, stopped speaking and was carried off stage. First hoping to tough it out in his hotel bedroom, he accepted medical advice and spent the night in hospital undergoing tests.

Was it a heart attack? “That’s what medical experts suspect. Look, I’m in

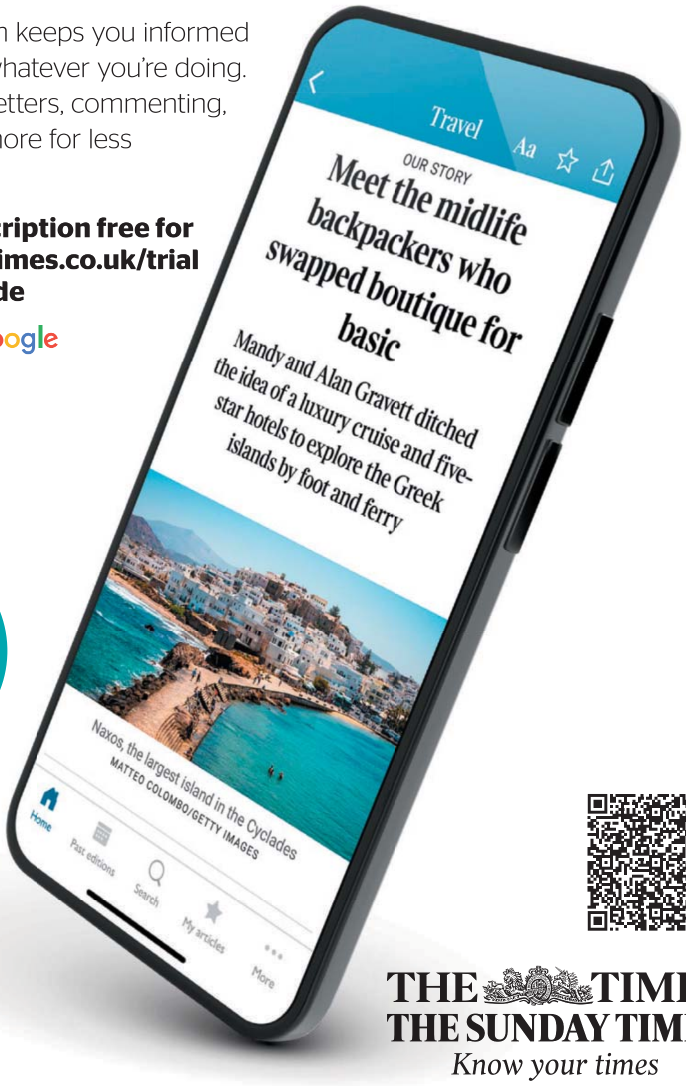
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in the face by giving me asthma'

LUCY YOUNG FOR THE TIMES



commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, on how many officers he fires — and how many recruits are women or ethnic minorities

great health physically and mentally but the key lesson for me is you can't take it for granted. We've all got to make sure we look after our physical health, mental health. Regular exercise is very important. Talking about how you're feeling is very important."

He is not taking heart medication, nor drugs or therapy for his mental health, which suffered during the 2020 lockdown. How bad did it get? "I hope I'm a sparky personality, I hope I inspire my team. They inspire me. And I wasn't getting that. Between March 20 and the middle of June, the only people I saw were my wife and my two kids. I love and I adore them and they're great company. We've a decent-sized home. But I didn't meet my team. I didn't play sports. I think that was my lowest ebb."

Khan and Saadiya Ahmad, a solicitor and like him a practising Muslim, have been married for almost 30 years and live near Tooting Common, south London, with their two daughters now back from university. "I say to them, 'When you were younger, you used to like my dancing, my singing and my sense of humour.' Now they're 21 and 23, and I'm embarrassing to them." (Mr Mayor ends our interview with a couple of jokes, so I feel their pain.)

He stays awake until the girls are back from a night out, for bad air is not the only killer on London's streets. Given the recent imprisonments of the monstrous Metropolitan policemen Wayne Couzens and David Carrick, would he advise them to approach an officer? "The police need to have the emotional intelligence to understand that they can't be in plainclothes at night time in a public place saying to a woman, 'I'm a police officer, trust me.' Women in particular won't trust the police like they did in yesteryear. So the police have got to earn back the trust of women, of black and Asian ethnic minority people, of gay people..."

"It is," he adds, "far too easy to become a police officer but far too difficult to get rid of a bad officer." So will he judge the Met's new commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, on how many cops he fires? "It's one metric. Spot on. That's one metric. Another metric is how many candidates who apply to be a police officer are unsuccessful. How many people are kicked out of the police service? How many people join the police service are women, are black or Asian, minority ethnic, of the LGBT+ community? Can we retain them? Do they get promoted? There are a lot of different metrics we can use, and we're working with Sir Mark."

"Working with" is a big thing for Khan. As mayor he says he has learnt to work with opponents even though as a young Muslim he took boxing lessons to give him the confidence to stand up to racist thugs. "I look for a fight. I'm a pugilist because of my background, but to be a good mayor you've got to build bridges, you've got to build coalitions, you've got to work with the Greens, work with Lib Dems, work with the Tories."

Some say his collaborations with the enemy date further back. In 2015 the Labour moderate signed Jeremy Corbyn's leadership nomination papers. Had he and just one other MP not done so, Corbyn would have been out of the race. Subsequently, Labour's left-wing Momentum group reportedly urged activists to vote for Khan as Labour's mayoral candidate thus helping him to his unexpected victory over the favourite, Tessa Jowell. Given the disastrous Corbyn years, does he regret that?

"I was quite clear I was not going to vote for Jeremy Corbyn or campaign for him but within the Labour Party we had to have an argument and debate about who was the best candidate to be the next leader," he protests (he voted for Andy Burnham). "In 2010 David Miliband nominated Diane Abbott to get into the leadership contest. Nobody suggested he made a deal with Momentum." And he didn't make a deal either? "If only!"

Cagey about his present popularity in focus groups, Khan refers me to his mayoral victories: "In 2021 – I say with humility but it's a statement of fact – no sitting mayor ever received more votes than I did." It is a fair point: in the 29 years since he became a councillor in Wandsworth, Khan has never lost an election. In the final chapter of *Breathe*, he insists "green wins". Perhaps he is going to be proved right.

Breathe: Tackling the Climate Emergency by Sadiq Khan is published by Hutchinson Heinemann at £16.98

Sadiq Aman Khan

Born October 8, 1970, in Tooting, south London

Education Ernest Bevin School, the local comprehensive. Studied law at University of North London; became a human rights solicitor

Family His father, Amanullah Khan, a bus driver, and mother, Sehrun, a seamstress, came to Britain from Pakistan. Married Saadiya Ahmad, a solicitor, in 1994. They live in Tooting and have two daughters

Career From 1994 to 2006 he was a Labour councillor for Wandsworth and was elected MP for Tooting in 2005. In 2016 he left Westminster after beating the Tory candidate, Zac Goldsmith, to be elected the mayor of London, succeeding Boris Johnson. In 2017 he introduced a Toxicity Charge on more polluting vehicles and announced plans for an Ultra Low Emission Zone (Ulez). He was re-elected mayor in 2021, beating the Conservative Shaun Bailey. By August this year he hopes to have seen off legal challenges and extended the Ulez to cover all of London.



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My Week Boris Johnson*

Monday
Suella calls. She's wondering if I know a good lawyer.

"Um," I say. "Sort of struggling there myself, actually."

Suella says Rishi wants her to apologise over the speeding thing. So she's wondering if she can do a private apology nobody else sees or hears.

"Oh, I've made loads of those," I say, thinking of various wives.

Then Suella says she's worried that Rishi is boxing her into a corner. Because she wants to resign over immigration, but she can't if she has to resign over something else, first.

"The confusing thing about this conversation," I say, "is why you think I'd care about something that isn't about me."

"But it's about me," she says, also sounding confused.

"Well, exactly," I say, no less confused.

"I just don't understand your values," she says.

"I don't understand yours, either," I say.

Tuesday
Apparently my lawyers have been telling the Cabinet Office everything I've told them. And it's not bloody on.

"The thing is, Mr Johnson," explains one of them, "we're not actually your lawyers."

"Why not?" I demand.

"Because you don't pay us," says the lawyer. "The government does."

"So?" I say.

"It's like," says the lawyer, "you know how when you use things, but somebody else pays for them, they're not actually yours?"

"No," I say.

"Well," says the lawyer.

"Also," I say, "when are we getting our gold wallpaper back? And our drinks trolley? Have you looked into that?"

"I'm not sure you're listening," says the lawyer.

Wednesday
Damn it. Loads of parties I told the lawyers about have now been referred to the police. By Downing Street!

"You've gone too far," I tell Rishi. "Nobody is going to stand for this. Can't a chap entertain his immediate family in the garden at Chequers?"

"What, all of them?" he says, uncertainly.

"Don't be ridiculous," I say, because it's only about a thousand acres.

Then I say that this is all pretty bloody low. Turning a chap over to the fuzz.

"Sunak the Snake," I say. "Witch-hunt."

"Don't call me that," says Jeremy, who is on the call too.

"Look Boris," says Rishi. "I swear. We only found out about it just before you did."

"Come off it," I say. "You really expect me to believe there were things happening in Downing Street without your knowledge?"

Jeremy reminds me that this is precisely my own defence for almost everything.

"Yes," I remind him. "But I'm me."

Thursday
It gets worse. Now the head of the Covid inquiry is demanding access to all the messages that have caused this fuss.

"Oh for God's sake," I rage, at home. "Whose stupid idea was this inquiry, anyway?"

"Yours," Carrie reminds me.

"Yes," I say, "but who put that bloody woman in charge of it?"

"You," says Carrie.

"OK," I say, "but what moron gave her such a broad remit?"

"Again," says Carrie.

Friday
All the Johnsonites are still furious. Nadine Dorries and Jacob Rees Mogg have dropped by. It's like old times.

"I'm worried about the blob," says Nadine.

"Don't call him that," says Carrie. "He always eats more when I'm pregnant."

Nadine says she means the Civil Service. "They just hate us so much," she says. "What have we ever done to them?"

"Apart from calling them lazy snowflakes, selling their offices and sacking lots of them?" says Jacob. "Absolutely nothing!"

Then he says that this fuss about the Chequers parties is particularly ridiculous.

"You bet it is," I say, because family men like us couldn't be expected to keep to the rule of six.

"We had the rule of Sixtus!" says Jacob, sounding pleased with himself.

"I mean whose idea even was that?" I say.

"I think we've covered this," says Carrie.

"The rule of Sixtus!" says Jacob, again, but a bit more weakly.

Then Nadine says a lot of the MPs aren't actually much better.

"They should never have got rid of you," she says. "But people just had this absurd idea that as PM you might lose us the next election."

"Silly fools," I say. "Like I need to be PM for that."



**according to Hugo Rifkind*

Cheese-rolling champion goes out at the top as injuries grate

Will Humphries
Southwest Correspondent

Chris Anderson's first experience of falling down Gloucestershire's famous cheese-rolling hill was after a few drinks one night as a teenager.

"I was thrown down there a couple of times when I was drunk," Anderson, who has won the Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling and Wake event 23 times says. "One of our friends did get knocked unconscious, but he was all right. I don't know if it was him hitting his head or too many beers."

Anderson, 35, who grew up in Brockworth, where the event is held, retired from racing last year after years of hurtling 200 yards down the 1 in 2 hill in pursuit of an 8lb wheel of double Gloucester, which can reach 70mph. There are three men's downhill races on the bank holiday. There is also a women's race and uphill races for children. Winners take home the cheese.

Anderson's dominance put many locals off competing but with him now out of the race there is a chance for a new villager to defend the pride of the area on Monday against international visitors who flock to take part in the tradition, which is thought to have started 600 years ago.



Winners such as Chris Anderson are rewarded with, of course, cheese

"I was 16 when I first entered the race," Anderson said. "I just went up there and tried my luck to get into a race and I managed to get in and came second. I was barely on my feet for the first race. I got to about halfway and then fell over and it was uncontrollable spinning and rolling."

The races are limited to 25 entrants. However, if a local does well in one race, the organisers make sure that they can get in subsequent races. "I won my first race the next year in 2005," Anderson said. "I don't remember a great deal because it was so fast. I just remember jumping up at the bottom to celebrate and breaking my ankle because I jumped straight down a rabbit hole."

His secret to his success is an ability to remain on his feet for longer than competitors and picking the right line. "You carry more momentum when you are on your feet," he said. "You just have to commit to running and have a feel for when you are going to fall and then tuck into an army roll and jump back on to your feet.

"It doesn't always go to plan and sometimes you are spinning uncontrollably and you're along for the ride. If it's wet it's impossible to stay on your feet so you need to get a good start and hope momentum carries you down."

Some of the injuries are brutal. The worst Anderson had was a bruised kidney after landing on his back. "I was fine until about three hours after the race, when I was in the pub and the adrenaline wore off — and then I was in a world of hurt. I was in pain with it for about three months."

Curb screen time, Grylls tells children

Jack Blackburn

Children need to learn to "police themselves" on social media and set their own rules, Bear Grylls has said.

Speaking at the Hay Festival, the adventurer and chief scout said that children needed to learn to self-regulate their use of the internet, much as they needed to learn to take charge of their diet and exercise.

"You're in charge … after you leave school nobody's going to be policing it for you," he said. "You'll have to police your own life. That might be eating healthy, or going to the gym, or if somebody treats you badly in a relationship then having some boundaries and saying. 'No — I'm not going to let you.' You've got to police yourself with social media as well."

He made his comments after a child in the audience asked for his thoughts on the power of social media to share information.

"Social media can be brilliant," he said. "It connects us, and you can learn stuff so fast and have fun and it's brilliant entertainment. The key, though, is not letting it control you. You control it. So you be in charge.

"If I'm on it all day, that's going to erode your heart a bit."

Grylls, 48, said that he and his wife did not set rules for their children's use of the internet and that a child would need to create their own boundaries. "I say 'set your rules'," he said. "Tell me your goals for life and then set your rules accordingly."

He did, however, suggest that smartphones were increasingly a problem with young children and that they were stopping them from engaging directly with the outside world, and he encouraged parents to confront this.

"It is so beautiful to teach your kids practical skills, real skills, in a world where so many kids are just lost to [their smartphone]," he said.

T AUDIO

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World

DeSantis lashes out at Trump ‘the destroyer’

Presidential hopeful goes on the offensive but Florida voters ask if he’s got what it takes to win, writes **David Charter** in Dunedin



Ron DeSantis accused Donald Trump of “destroying millions of people’s lives” as he finally took the gloves off to try to fight his way back into the Republican race for the White House.

The Florida governor, facing a huge polling gap and chastened by a botched campaign launch on Twitter this week, said the former president had wrecked American business and school life during the pandemic by “turning the country over to [Anthony] Fauci”, his medical adviser, who advocated lockdowns and social distancing.

It was one of several ad hominem attacks by DeSantis, 44, in interviews on conservative media as he sought to remind the nation of the reason for his popularity in Florida after he defied conventional thinking about Covid-19 to keep the state open.

DeSantis also accused Trump, 76, of adding $8 trillion to the national debt, and denounced him for backing an amnesty for illegal migrants and for not firing Christopher Wray, the FBI director, who DeSantis accused of being “partisan” against conservatives.

“He [Trump] is a different guy today than when he was running in 2015 and 2016,” DeSantis told Matt Murphy, a Tennessee conservative talk radio host. “I don’t know what happened to Donald Trump.”

Speaking to the news site RealClearPolitics, DeSantis said: “He’s running attacks, attacking me for voting against an omnibus spending bill that he signed when he was president. Absolutely, I think he should not have signed those omnibus spending bills. He added almost $8 trillion to the debt in a four-year period of time. I’m happy to be on the conservative side of that debate because I think our debt has gone up way too much.”

DeSantis previously shied away from making direct attacks on Trump, his chief rival for the Republican nomination, during which time the former president has unleashed a torrent of insults and accusations that helped him to a commanding lead in the party primary contest.

The Florida governor even avoided mentioning Trump by name in his campaign launch on Wednesday in conversation with Elon Musk, delayed for almost 25 minutes as the Twitter Spaces platform repeatedly crashed.

DeSantis’s campaign said that it raised $8.2 million in the 24 hours after he declared his candidacy, beating a record of $6.3 million raised by Biden during the first 24 hours after his campaign launch in 2019.

In contrast to the amateurish Twitter event, the Trump campaign pumped out a series of targeted attack emails aimed at voters in the early primary voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada. “While in Congress, DeSantis voted in favour of legislation to make Yucca Mountain a nuclear waste repository,” the Nevada document said, referring to a site 90 miles from Las Vegas.

“In 2013 DeSantis voted in favour of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, which contained a provision to reopen the Yucca Mountain waste repository after Congress had voted to end funding for the site two years prior.”

The in-depth “opposition research” is a sign of how much more professional Trump’s operation has become since his 2016 White House run. Insiders believe this reflects the growing influence of Susie Wiles, 66, a proven election winner who ran his campaigns in Florida in 2016 and 2020 — and also led DeSantis’s successful run for governor in 2018 when he was still seen as Trump’s protégé.

“Trump world is dynamic and volatile and innovative and ever-changing, and Susie is the rock,” Matt Gaetz, a Florida congressman, said.

One indicator of Trump’s dominance is the number of endorsements he has racked up nationally and in Florida, which he made his home base in 2019 after relocating from New York. He has been backed for 2024 by 12 of the state’s 20 representatives in Congress, compared with only one for DeSantis. The state governor has, however, been endorsed by 99 out of the 113 Republicans in the Florida legislature.

Polling this week showed the mountain DeSantis has to climb: Trump leads by 61 to 32 per cent among Republican voters, up from 52 to 42 per cent in late March, according to Quinnipiac University. The same poll did, however, give DeSantis some ammunition for one of his other lines of attack on Trump: that he is better placed to win against President Biden. The margins of victory are slim, with Biden leading Trump by 48 to 46 per cent, while DeSantis leads Biden by 47 to 46 per cent. No one else in the Republican primary has reached double figures.

Trump is keeping up the assault on his Truth Social site. “‘Rob DeSanctimonious and his poll numbers are dropping like a rock. I would almost be inclined to say these are record falls,” he wrote, wondering also if his rival was “just young and inexperienced and naive or more troubling. Is he a fool who has no idea what the hell he’s doing? We already have one of those in office, we don’t need another one.”

President López Obrador of Mexico called on Hispanic voters to boycott DeSantis because of his immigration policies. “Hopefully Hispanics in Florida will wake up and not give him one single vote, to not vote for those who persecute migrants, those who don’t respect migrants,” he said.

The scale of the challenge has even some of DeSantis’s most loyal supporters in his home town of Dunedin nervous about whether he can beat the former president, and the damage the challenge could do to his long-term prospects.

The high school baseball coach who played a part in DeSantis’s stellar rise said that the governor’s drive, hard work and honesty gave him the character to be president. But he was loath to call the primary race against Trump for his former pupil, much as he hopes he will succeed.

“He’s an honest young man and he’s worked for everything that he’s gotten,” said Greg Nichols, 79, who is hoping DeSantis can go one better than in his final and most successful high school year, when his baseball team finished runners-up for the Florida state title. “I just think he would be a great role model for a lot of the young people in this world.”

Nichols coached DeSantis from the ages of 15 to 18, when his sporting prowess earned him a Yale scholarship. He followed in the footsteps of President George Bush Sr as baseball captain at the Ivy League university and used it as the springboard to a law degree at Harvard and his political career.

“Everyone called him D, and that’s how I knew him,” Nichols told The Times on the porch of his home north of the city. “I’m very proud of what he’s done in the state of Florida. He’s just taken off and didn’t care about the criticism that he got. He just did what he thought was right.”

Nichols, a Republican voter who wants a change from Trump, said he would certainly vote for DeSantis in the party primary.

“His toughest race will be to beat the former president,” he said, sharing the belief echoed by many in his hometown that, if he can get past Trump, he would defeat Biden.

At the TD Ballpark where DeSantis played for four years while at Dunedin High School, Dea Jones, an administrative assistant, said she had voted for both men in recent years — and faced a dilemma.

“This is a real hard decision,” said Jones, 64. “I think DeSantis would be a great president, but if he’s president who’s going to step up and fill his shoes here? I cannot make a prediction.”

DeSantis has to tread a difficult path, finding ways to land blows that do not alienate too many of the Republican voting base that backed Trump twice in presidential elections.

Asked in another post-launch interview on The Clay Travis and Buck Sexton Show podcast whether he would consider pardoning those convicted over the US Capitol riot that sent shockwaves across the nation on January 6, 2021 — including, potentially, Trump himself — DeSantis said: “On day one, I will have folks that will get together and look at all these cases, people who are victims of weapon-

Latest polling

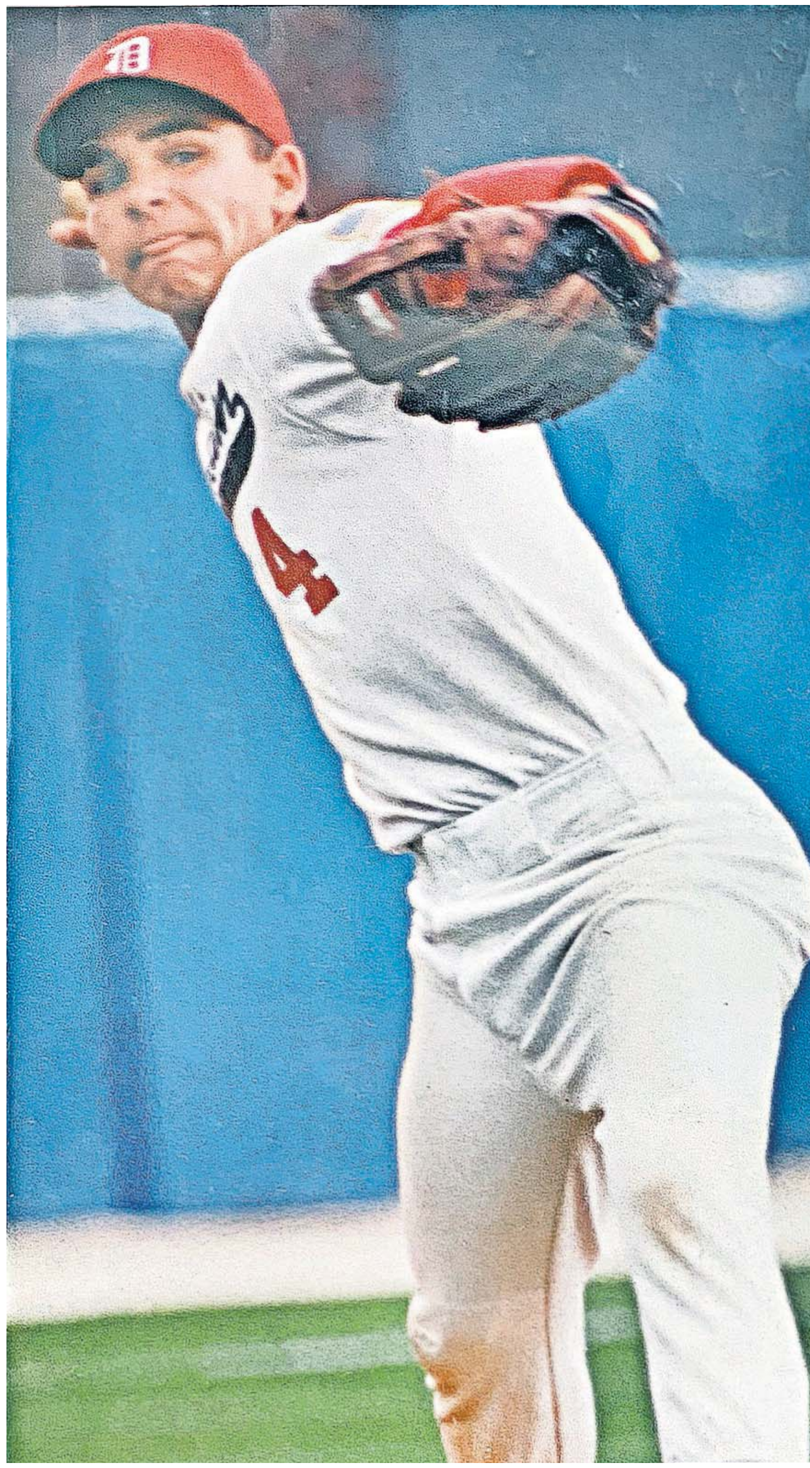
2024 primary race Brackets = late March polling

Candidate	%
Donald Trump	61% (52)
Ron DeSantis	32% (42)

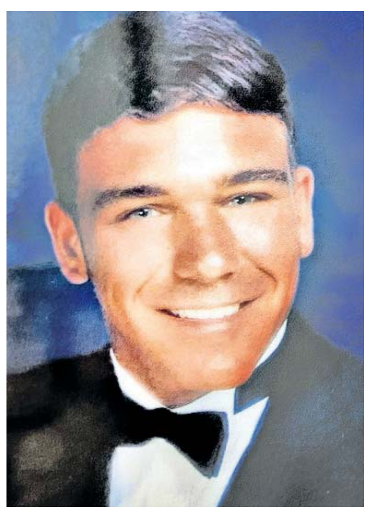
2024 presidential election

Joe Biden	48%	Ron DeSantis	47%
Donald Trump	46%	Joe Biden	46%

Source: Quinnipiac University. 1,819 US adults nationwide were surveyed from May 18 to 22



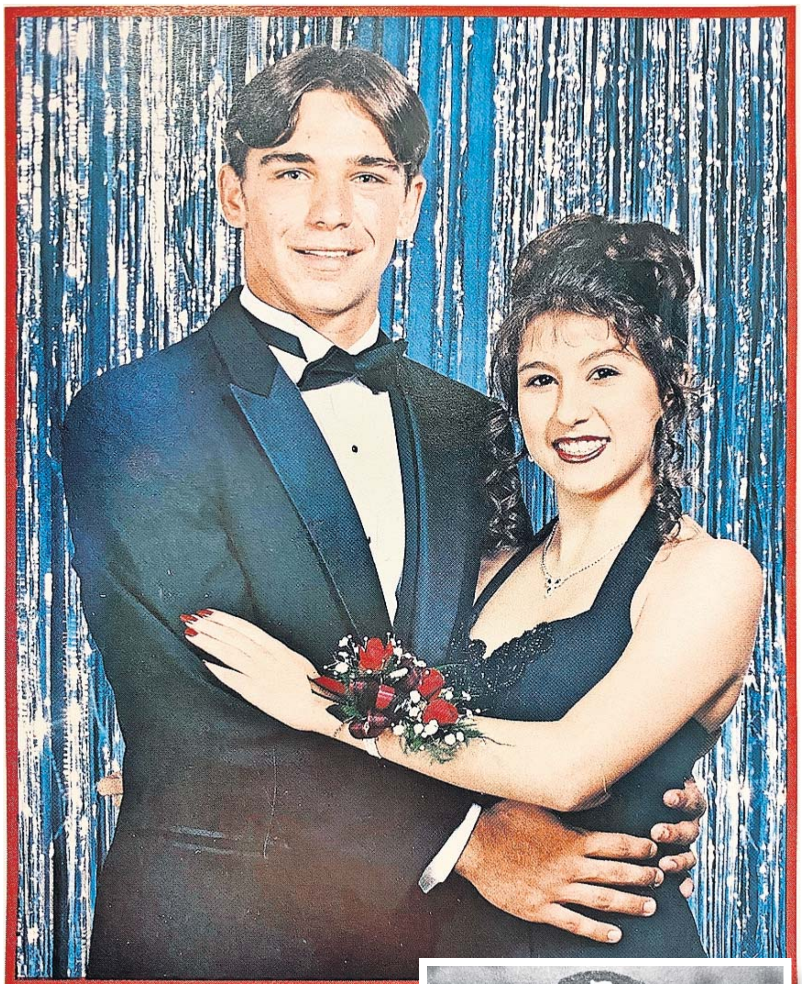
A young Ron DeSantis made his mark on the baseball field in Dunedin and on the

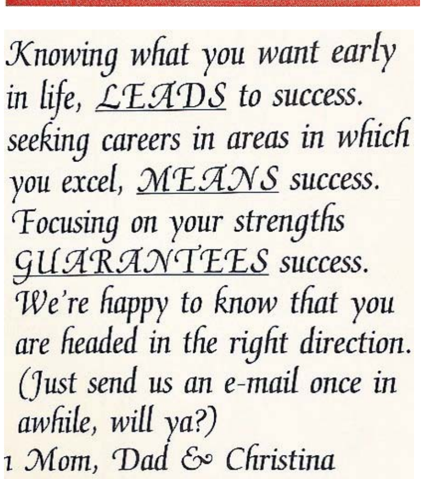


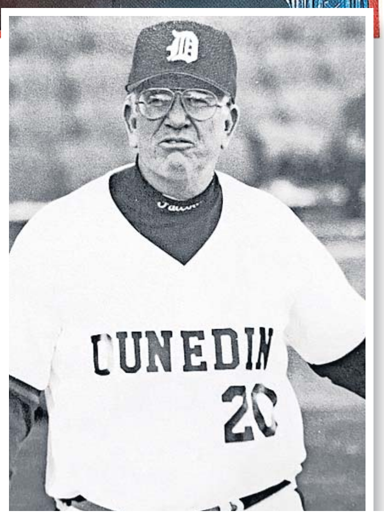
Japanese kabuki actor stars in his own tragedy
Page 44



Native Americans are at the heart of Scorsese's latest film
Page 45







social scene, backed all the way by his family and guided by his coach, Greg Nichols

isation or political targeting, and we will be aggressive in issuing pardons."

The Democrats in Florida are warning against DeSantis becoming president after he signed an "extreme" roster of state legislation this year, including a ban on abortion after six weeks of pregnancy and a law allowing people to carry guns without a permit. "The entire country will be on pins and needles every single day if he dared to become president of the United States," said Nikki Fried, head of the Florida Democratic Party. "I will be so bold as to say our democracy will be over."

On Main Street, Dunedin, Republican voters were split on whether to back their home-town boy, who lived in a modest residence in the city from the ages of 6 to 18.

Ed Tweedy, 51, who voted for Trump in 2016 and 2020, said he thought the former president now had too much baggage. "We're in difficult times and DeSantis really sticks to family values. I've seen what he's done to the school system, I have two daughters aged 12 and 13. And he's done a great job with the state economy," he said.

"I love Trump, I do, I think he's done a fantastic job for our country. But I think he could have been a little more restrained and at this point it's gone too far. There's so many people out there who are really against him in a really big way, I don't know how the country would react. I feel at this point that there's a lot of hatred for Trump."

His friend, Chris Hamilton, 56, a security company manager, said he was sticking with Trump. "I know DeSantis grew up here and played his baseball here but I don't care what town he's from, I don't even care if he was born in the state, I'm still going for my guy. I'm ultra-Maga [Make America Great Again]. Right now I want Trump and then DeSantis in 2028.

"I'll still vote for him for governor here but I'm not going to vote for him over Trump. DeSantis is good at being anti something but I don't know if he's a good dealmaker, whereas Trump can get in the room and make the big deal, and it's always been to our advantage.

"He got favourable trade deals and he told Nato to build up their forces. He knows what makes people tick."

Woman dies in Russia searching for her abducted granddaughter

Ukraine
Maxim Tucker Kyiv

When the Russian-appointed director of their school in occupied Kherson offered Vlada and Anastasia a free two-week holiday at a seaside camp last October, the half-sisters jumped at the chance.

Seven months later Vlada, 14, is trapped in Russia, and the girls' grandmother, Olha Kutova, is dead after a failed rescue attempt.

The Kremlin has ordered the abduction of tens of thousands of Ukrainian children from occupied areas since the invasion began in February last year, prompting the International Criminal Court to issue an arrest warrant for President Putin, 70, and for Maria Lvova-Belova, 38, his commissioner for children's rights.

Since then the feared FSB security service has started hunting Ukrainian families travelling to Russia hoping to take their children home, according to Mykola Kuleba, chief executive of Save Ukraine, a charitable fund that has returned 109 children abducted by the Kremlin.

Kutova died after she and a group of 12 mothers also seeking their children were held and interrogated by FSB agents for 14 hours. "The FSB will do everything it can to stop these children from coming back. Now they can be witnesses to Putin's trial at the ICC," Kuleba told The Times. "They interrogated this group of 13 mothers for 14 hours. It was so stressful that her heart stopped."

The first busloads of parents who headed into Russia were able to collect their children relatively easily, Save Ukraine said, but last month the charity realised that the FSB was tracking their efforts and identifying them.

"We have a mother coming back with a child right now who has to find another border because the Russians forbid her to cross to Belarus," Kuleba said. "They are blocking us at the camps and at the border."

Ukraine's National Information Bureau has identified more than 16,000 children taken by the Russians, although some human rights experts say the true figure is in the hundreds of thousands.

"The Russian side has never given us any figures," Dmytro Lubinets, Ukraine's human rights ombudsman said. "Not about adopted children, nor about the children who are there, nor about where they are and in what condition they are kept. We have no information from them."

President Zelensky has accused Russia of kidnapping the children for "forced adoption and re-education". Russia claims it is simply removing "refugee" children from the war zone.

Lvova-Belova and her husband, a Russian Orthodox priest, are acting as parents and guardians to 22 children, including at least one boy who lost his family in Mariupol.

Anastasia, 13, one of the 109 children rescued by Save Ukraine, thought she and Vlada would be visiting a camp in the region previously attended by her brothers, she told The Times. Instead they were taken to Crimea, hundreds of miles deeper into Russian-occupied territory.

"Everything was fine before I found out they are not taking me back home," she said. "Then I started calling those people *rashists* [racist Russians] because they forced us to stay in the camp and refused to take us back."

The girls were moved from camp to camp for months, each filled with Ukrainian children, she said.

"We had counsellors there who told us if we keep saying anything pro-Ukrainian or chant *Slava Ukraini* [Glory to Ukraine], they will discipline us. We were told not to discuss politics, so we didn't. I missed all my relatives so much but was powerless do anything about it."

The girls were separated, with Vlada being taken to a foster home in Krasnodar, southern Russia. The aim is to uproot the children and wrench them from any sense of home, Save Ukraine said. Their locations are changed frequently, and they are offered Russian passports and their own apartments when they reach 18 if they sign a certificate saying that they are orphans — whether their relatives are alive or dead.

"The Russians tell them all the time, 'Why do you want to go to Ukraine? Soon we will take these territories, it is safer to stay in Russia, you will have a future, an education. Nobody is waiting for you in Ukraine, nobody needs you and Ukraine will soon be destroyed,'" Kuleba said.

Vlada was adjusting to her Russian foster family when she learnt that her grandmother had died trying to rescue her. Kutova, 65, had been her sole legal guardian, and her world fell apart.

"We were both supposed to be taken back by our grandmother, Olha," Anastasia said, her voice wavering with emotion. "She was supposed to get Vlada first and me after that. But she never got to Krasnodar because she died along the way."

Anastasia was rescued from Crimea on a later trip, but Vlada refused to come home. "When her grandmother died, Vlada said she didn't want to go back to Ukraine. After her death Vlada said she has no one left to come back for."

Alone and isolated deep inside Russia, Vlada has tried to make sense of her situation by starting to sever ties with her half-sister, and a gulf has opened between them.

"We tried to persuade her to come and live with my family," Anastasia said.

"She told me, 'If you keep trying, I'll stop talking to you at all.'"

Once inseparable, Anastasia has no idea when or if she'll see Vlada again. "I'm keeping in touch with her but rarely now," she said. "I'm a little angry with her decision."



Anastasia, 13, was saved by a charity but her half-sister is still in Russia

Is cottage cheese on the whey back?

United States
Will Pavia New York

On President Nixon's final day in the White House, just before he went on television to announce his resignation, his lunch arrived on a silver tray: a glass of milk, slices of pineapple arranged in a circle and on top, a scoop of cottage cheese.

This was not considered an abomination — indeed, it was quite unremarkable in comparison with the scandal that was forcing him from office. In 1974 the average American ate more than two kilograms of cottage cheese a year, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

Yet soon cottage cheese, like Nixon, fell out of favour and slid from view, leaving a slimy trail. Now it is back.

"I'm on a mission to make cottage cheese the new burrata," says Emily Eggers, a New York chef and food blogger, in one of a series of videos devoted to the stuff. "It's 2023. Time to grow up and stop pretending like cottage cheese is not delicious."

This sudden enthusiasm has been attributed partly to a young generation focused on protein and nutrients, as well as the rise of "bowl" meals filled with grains, vegetables and fruit.

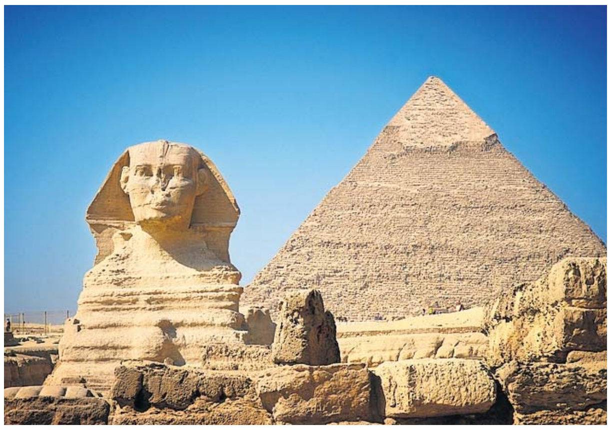
"All of these ingredients together make for a super nutrient-dense cottage cheese bowl that will have you full for literally hours," Arnett promises her followers, after producing one featuring bacon, tomato and avocado.

Trisha Barton, marketing manager for Anderson Erickson Dairy, a cottage cheese producer in Iowa, is a fan. "All these folks are now rediscovering what their grandparents and parents already knew," she said.

Cottage cheese was foisted on the nation when the Department of Agriculture urged Americans to eat it as a substitute for meat during the First World War. It was part of a healthy eating movement in the 1950s and 1960s, Barton added. But between 1975 and 2021, Americans' cottage cheese habit shrank to less than a kilogram a head as people interested in eating healthily gradually turned towards yoghurt.

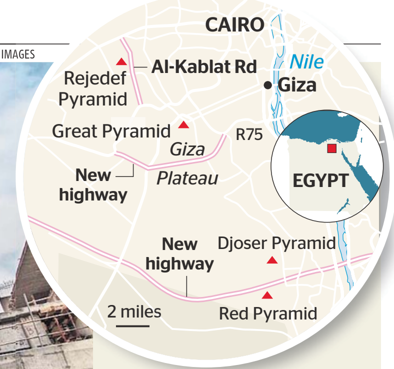
Now there are efforts to repackage cottage cheese in much the same way, and even offer a "whipped" version. As a child Barton was not a fan of cottage cheese because of its texture, but the whipped stuff "is almost the consistency of yoghurt, it's very smooth", she says. "They are making ice cream with cottage cheese on TikTok."

She adds that the new enthusiasm for cottage cheese has not yet translated into a mad rush at her dairy, which does not use preservatives and so only delivers cottage cheese locally. But "we are in Iowa", she said. New crazes "take a little bit of time to get here".



KHALED DESOUKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; PABLO CHARLÝN/GETTY IMAGES





Pyramids in peril from new motorways

First it was the desert and then it was Cairo's famous cemetery complex, the City of the Dead. Now the Egyptian president's determination to build a modern road network is threatening the pyramids (Magdy Samaan writes).

At least three highways have been built in the so-called Memphis Necropolis west of Cairo, home to the Great Pyramid of Khufu in Giza, the only survivor of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The new roads have alarmed Egyptologists and conservationists, who say that they will disrupt the integrity of the plateau on which the pyramids sit, concrete over unexplored archaeological sites, generate pollution that could corrode monuments and expose closed areas packed with hidden archaeological treasures to looting.

The most recent highway is the Al-Kablat road, which crosses the necropolis north of the Great Pyramid at Abu Rawash near the largely destroyed pyramid of Redjedef, an Egyptian king of the 4th dynasty.

President Sisi's road network risks damage to pyramids and concreting over unexplored sites, Egyptologists say

"The ancient monumental pavement of the Redjedef pyramid at Abu Rawash has just been gutted and irreparably damaged by the creation of a new road," Franck Monnier, an engineer who specialises in ancient Egyptian architecture and construction techniques, said.

President Sisi came to power with ambitious plans to modernise Egypt, including the building of a new capital city in the desert to the east of Cairo and driving motorways through the labyrinthine city itself.

The first road to cross the Pyramid Plateau was built in 2020, about a mile and a half south of the Great Pyramid. A second road crosses the Saqqara Necropolis between the limestone Step Pyramid of Djoser and the Red Pyramid in Dahshur. Each highway has about eight lanes.

"If the map is true, then we are facing a civilisational disaster," Bassam Al-Shamaa, a lecturer on Egyptology, said. "Any human activity in archaeological sites affects them. We are talking about a danger not only to the discovered antiquities but also to the undiscovered antiquities — those still underground."

Lazare Eloundou Assomo, the director of Unesco's World Heritage Centre, said: "Our experts are closely monitoring these situations to ensure that Egypt fully respects its commitments as a state party to the World Heritage Convention to protect World Heritage sites.

"The impact of urban pressure and infrastructure projects on cultural heritage is a recurring challenge all over the world. We hope that suitable solutions will be found and implemented by Egyptian authorities."

Mystery surrounds real-life tragedy in kabuki star's home

Japan
Richard Lloyd Parry Tokyo

The scene that greeted employees entering the home of Ennosuke Ichikawa was like a tragic finale from one of the kabuki plays that made him rich and famous.

The most adored Japanese classical actor of his time lay slumped unconscious. In an adjoining room, lying in bed, were his father, also unconscious, and his mother, already dead.

A week later, the 47-year-old actor is alive and well. But exactly what happened that day is still unclear, and in the absence of an official account, the gap has been filled with lurid reporting and speculation.

One version of events tells the story of a manipulative abuser exposed and shamed. Another paints a tragic picture of a brilliant artist hounded to self-destruction. Either way, it has exposed to public scrutiny the glamorous and closed world of kabuki, the 400-year-old art form that occupies a place somewhere between Shakespeare and pantomime.

Kabuki has its origins in Japan's feudal period and throughout its history its productions have been theatrical spectacles filled with brilliant costumes, extravagant make-up, exquisite dances, jokes, acrobatic stunts and tragedy, and dominated by star actors who are organised into clan-like theatrical "families".

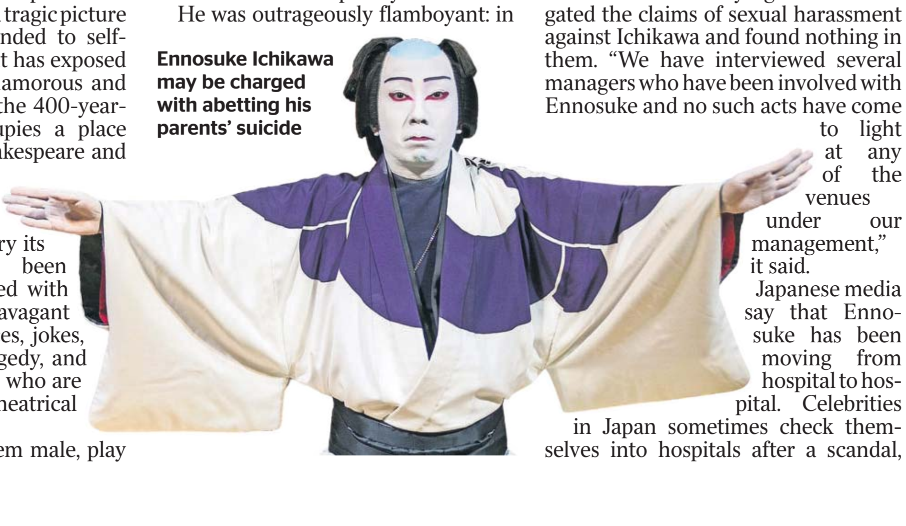
Kabuki stars, all of them male, play the roles of men and women, demons, heroes and ghosts. Ichikawa — or Ichikawa Ennosuke IV, to give him his full theatrical name — was the most charismatic and creative of them all.

Born the son of another famous kabuki actor, he made his debut at the age of four, inheriting his acting name from an uncle. He went on to pioneer "super kabuki", a modern version of the old form, using contemporary language and telling stories from manga comics as well as the usual classical legends.

In 2012, at the ceremony in which he was named the inheritor of the Ennosuke name, he said in a speech: "I am determined to gamble my life for kabuki."

He also acted in hit television dramas, playing a famous samurai and a villainous contemporary banker.

He was outrageously flamboyant: in March, he turned up at a formal ceremony at a Shinto shrine with dyed blue hair and a pink denim jacket. He also gambled in Las Vegas casinos.



Ennosuke Ichikawa may be charged with abetting his parents' suicide

But for all his brilliance, Ichikawa was a divisive figure. He marginalised some of the stalwarts of the Omodaka-ya acting family of which he became the head, and brought in newcomers. In 2016, several actors broke off to form a new group after quarrelling with him.

Last week the women's magazine Josei Seven published an exposé in which he was accused of the sexual harassment of younger apprentices. "Ennosuke is a charming character, a bright guy," one unnamed source said. "But I am scared to go drinking with him alone at night."

Shochiku, his production company, issued a statement saying it had investigated the claims of sexual harassment against Ichikawa and found nothing in them. "We have interviewed several managers who have been involved with Ennosuke and no such acts have come to light at any of the venues under our management," it said.

Japanese media say that Ennosuke has been moving from hospital to hospital. Celebrities in Japan sometimes check themselves into hospitals after a scandal, although that often has more to do with the desire to evade media attention than any real need to receive medical treatment. He has not been charged with any crime.

The day after the magazine exposé, employees calling at the house that he shared with his parents came upon the grim scene. Ichikawa's mother, Nobuko, 75, a dancer and teacher, was dead; his father, the retired actor Ichikawa Danshiro, 76, was unconscious, and died in hospital. Ichikawa himself was drooling, groggy and incoherent, but recovered quickly enough to be discharged from hospital the next day.

He had left a suicide note addressed to his secretary and driver, who was also apparently his boyfriend. "I love you," it said. "See you in the next world."

His father had advanced liver cancer; his mother had rarely gone outside since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. According to Japanese press reports based on leaks from the police, he told investigators that he and his parents had resolved to kill themselves together by taking sleeping pills.

But he also apparently told police that, after they had taken the drugs, he asphyxiated his parents. Police are said to be considering charging him with the crime of aiding and abetting suicide.

"I went many times to my beloved Las Vegas, and my work fulfilled me," he was quoted as saying.

"I have left nothing undone in this world. I am looking forward to rebirth. But it is difficult to [asphyxiate] yourself. The pills were not enough, and so I couldn't die."

Belgian jail swap frees Iran terrorist

Belgium
Bruno Waterfield Brussels

A convicted Iranian terrorist and spy acting under orders from the highest levels of his country's regime is on his way back to Tehran after a prisoner swap for a Belgian aid worker.

Assadollah Assadi, 51, was serving a 20-year sentence for plotting a bomb attack on an Iranian opposition group in Villepinte near Paris in June 2018.

He used his cover as an envoy in Vienna to take a bomb to Europe, abusing the privileges of a diplomatic bag, in an operation planned at the top end of Iran's Islamic Republic. In a prisoner swap brokered by Oman he was exchanged for Olivier Vandecasteele, 42, an aid worker falsely imprisoned in Iran since February 26 last year.

Alexander De Croo, the Belgian prime minister, "took responsibility" for the exchange that began in Oman with the handover of Vandecasteele. De Croo said: "We leave no one behind in our country. Certainly not someone who is innocent."

Vandecasteele was convicted of espionage in Iran and sentenced to 40 years and 74 lashes after a show trial designed to put pressure on Belgium, where Assadi had been arrested and imprisoned on terrorism charges five years ago before being convicted in 2021.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran, the group targeted by the terrorist plot, which was intended to kill hundreds of people, criticised "a shameful ransom to terrorism and hostage-taking. This will embolden the religious fascism ruling Iran to continue its crimes through repression and regional and international terrorism."

Hollywood hacks keen to write a happy ending for themselves

Keiran Southern

U.S. CONFIDENTIAL HOLLYWOOD

LOS ANGELES

Hollywood writers make a living out of creating snappy dialogue and witty one-liners, while their proximity to film stars holds a certain amount of glamour, at least for outsiders. It may be a surprise, then, to learn how many of them are single.

That could change in the coming weeks and months, however, with film and television scribes hoping to find love on the picket line as their dispute with the studios drags on.

The Writers Guild of America has been organising singles' nights for members after their long days spent waving placards. If a previous strike is anything to go by, 2023's walkout may produce plenty of new couples.

At one recent "mixer", writers who had been protesting outside the gates of Universal Studios shared tacos and margaritas at a nearby Mexican restaurant. Nametags helped to break the ice, while a coloured string tied around the wrist indicated a singleton's preference for men (blue) or women (pink).

Laura Nava, who plans to return to her writing job — on the Netflix series *Ransom Canyon*, a romance — when the strike ends, was among those who attended the appropriately named Strike Up a Romance event, alongside about 200 of her colleagues.

There was a sense of camaraderie among the writers, Nava said, with the taco stand offering a discount for guild members. "Everybody was there to find their person," she said.

"We are eager to find something positive out of all the negative. Not that picketing is necessarily negative but we don't know when this will end. It was good for morale."

Finding love on the picket line has been a hot topic among writers since the strike started on May 2, fuelled by fears that the shift to streaming has fundamentally changed how Hollywood works, with writers scrambling for fewer jobs that pay less than they used to. The use of artificial intelligence in the creation of scripts has also emerged as a flashpoint.

The deteriorating conditions partially explain why there are so many single writers, according to Nava. "Speaking from personal experience, we're kind of introverted. When you have a job, you're working so hard that it's difficult to make time for a personal life, and when you're not working, you're stressed about not working and not having money to go out on a date. It's perpetual singledom."

Some will take comfort from the example of Shannon Goss, a staff writer on the medical drama *ER* during the 2007 Hollywood writers' strike. She met Jerome Schwartz while he was working at the guild; they have been married for 12 years and have two children.

"Strikes are hard in so many ways and this was a really wonderful glass of lemonade," Goss said of meeting her husband during a walkout.

"If people can find love, that's great. I have a lot of single friends who are hoping lightning will strike for them."

Nava did not get lucky at the first singles' event, but it is early days yet. "I have plans to go to the next one, so who knows," she said.

True story behind Scorsese's new epic

United States
Keiran Southern Skiatook, Oklahoma

APPLE TV; OSAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM



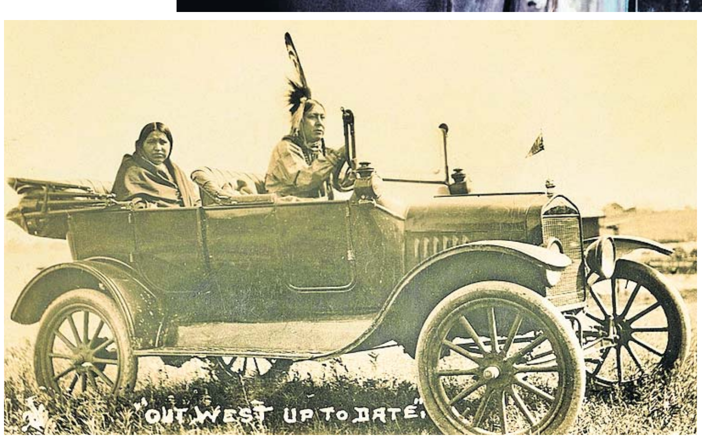
Robert De Niro and Leonardo DiCaprio star in a film about Native Americans who got rich through oil, left

In May 1921 the body of a young Native American woman was found at the bottom of a remote ravine in northern Oklahoma. Anna Brown, of the Osage Nation, had no known enemies, making the bullet hole in the back of her head all the more inexplicable.

Then, two months later, Brown's mother died in suspicious circumstances. Two years after that her cousin was shot dead. Then her sister and brother-in-law were killed in a bomb attack on their home.

Theirs were not the only strange, violent deaths to happen in the rocky and infertile lands of 1920s Oklahoma. This period is recalled by the Osage Nation as the "Reign of Terror": an era when scores were murdered after the tribe's discovery of oil made them the wealthiest people in the world per capita — and put a price on their backs.

It is this bloody history that is the subject of a new $200 million Martin Scorsese film starring Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio and Lily Gladstone, a Native American actress whose performance has been commended.



Based on a best-selling book by David Grann, *Killers of the Flower Moon* wowed critics at the Cannes film festival and is set to become an awards contender when it is released in cinemas in the UK in October, before arriving on Apple TV+.

The film has been hailed as a landmark in Hollywood's representation of Native Americans. Forced from their land in Kansas in the late 1800s, the Osage Nation settled in Oklahoma, where, in a twist of fate, the tribe struck oil. There are stories — perhaps apocryphal — that illustrate their newfound riches during the Roaring Twenties, including grand pianos discarded on lawns and new cars bought to replace vehicles with flat tyres. There are also tales of how itinerant oil workers, including a pre-Hollywood Clark Gable, came to dig on their land.

In *The Deaths of Sybil Bolton: Oil, Greed, and Murder on the Osage Reservation*, Dennis McAuliffe and Grann describe how the press chronicled the Osage spending sprees, with their huge wealth exemplified by descriptions of patent leather shoes studded with diamonds and chauffeur-driven cars with initials etched in gold on the side. Their discovery, however, made the Osage a target and, in a dark chapter of America's troubled history with its native population, members of the tribe were murdered as part of a conspiracy to steal their wealth. The deaths became investigations for a nascent Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Scorsese had set out to tell a whodunnit about the formation of J Edgar Hoover's FBI. Yet after meeting tribal leaders in Oklahoma in 2019, he agreed to rewrite the script to tell the story of the Osage and the government's failure to protect them.

Jim Gray, a former chief of the Osage Nation and a direct descendant of a Reign of Terror victim, said that Scorsese, 80, listened to their concerns over a traditional meal of corn soup, "frybread" and grape dumplings.

The tribe was wary of Hollywood's historic portrayal of Native Americans, pointing to "white saviour" films such as *Dances with Wolves* and *The Last of the Mohicans*. More than 200 Osage tribe members attended the meeting in the town of Gray Horse and asked Scorsese not to make a film about the FBI with the victims in the background.

Gray said: "I told him, 'You have an opportunity to depart from all those past practices. You don't have to go down that road. But the road you do go down, let us come with you. Let us help you make that story. The culture of the tribe is not present in the FBI files where David Grann drew his book. The culture of the tribe is in this room, sir. Let us help you.' "

Scorsese, Gray said, listened, then took the microphone and told the Osage he would work on the script.

The director confirmed this account, saying that over a three-hour meeting "I learnt about the people that settled, and the stories. They're all related to each other, and there's still relations and there's still issues and so-and-so is in love … and it goes on like that. And I said 'there's the story'."

The Reign of Terror lasted into the 1930s and the murders are an open wound for many Osage. After they began accumulating wealth, the federal government appointed white guardians to oversee the Osage's spending, with even small purchases requiring approval.

Then the murders began. Grann tells how the Osage were picked off as part of a plot led by a wealthy white cattleman in an attempt to steal their inheritance rights.

The betrayal was often personal. Mollie Burkhart, played by Gladstone, survived her white husband's attempt to poison her. Anyone investigating the murders was also targeted. A lawyer was thrown off a moving train and a white oilman was beaten to death.



Lily Gladstone plays Mollie Burkhart, who survived a poisoning

The FBI's investigation later found that at least 24 Osage were killed.

Gray, however, believes the true figure to be in the hundreds. He is the great-grandson of Henry Roan, an Osage who was shot dead in 1923 on the orders of William Hale, the leader of the murder plot, who is played by De Niro in the film.

Gray did not learn the full story until his early thirties, with his mother still reluctant to talk about a dark chapter in the tribe's history. He is hopeful that the film will help the Osage to overcome the "generational trauma" caused by the Reign of Terror.

He believes that America may also learn a lesson.

"It's not just an Osage story, it's an American story," he said. "We're not the only tribe that has a 'reign of terror' story. Cherokees have one, Navajos have one, the Lakota have one. There are 574 tribes, and 574 'reign of terror' stories in there. And many of them, if not all, were as a direct result of a failure of federal policy."

World

Unstoppable rise of Spain's lady in red

Spain
Isambard Wilkinson Madrid

The rapturous applause that greets Yolanda Díaz on the campaign trail before regional elections in Spain tomorrow stands in stark contrast to the stiff smiles accorded her by her fellow far-left politicians.

Díaz, 52, a deputy prime minister and a communist, predicts she will be the country's first female prime minister. She is already its most highly rated politician, according to polls, but her popularity does not extend to the leadership of the Podemos party that elevated her to power. They view her as a traitor who in launching her own political movement, Unite, has divided the left.

A gifted negotiator propelled by her perennial smile, steely ambition and progressive political mantras, Díaz, who was little known three years ago, holds in her hands the fate of Spain's government, an odd position for someone not even running in the elections.

With the media obsessing over her fashion sense — which she "could have learnt from Queen Letizia", El Mundo newspaper said — she has become the darling of the left. The daughter of a communist leader who was jailed under Franco, she is an employment lawyer who sleeps less than four hours a night. She announced her ambitions last month, shortly after launching her movement.

"Today I'm taking a step forward. I want to lead our country," she told a political rally in Madrid.

The head of Spain's Socialist-led coalition government, Pedro Sánchez, the prime minister, desperately needs such a leader by his side. He will be nervously watching Podemos's results in tomorrow's elections, which are viewed as a crucial indicator for a general election due in December.

Díaz's movement is not running in tomorrow's poll but she is picking and choosing far-left candidates to lend them her support in return for their backing in the general election.

The critical political space to the left of Sánchez's Socialists was beset by infighting soon after Pablo Iglesias, Podemos's founder, left politics in May 2021 after his party suffered a drubbing in a regional election in Madrid.

He nominated Díaz to take over his post as deputy prime minister even though she was not a member of his party, but when her ambitions became clear the two fell out.

Their acrimony broke out in public over the botched Podemos-led consent law, whose deficiencies led to the shortening of sentences or freeing of more than 1,000 sex offenders. Díaz's failure to support Podemos over the fiasco incensed Iglesias, who remains an éminence grise of the party.

The conflict is threatening to tear apart the left, with no agreement in sight on a joint ticket between Díaz and Iglesias's party.

Díaz's rise has also highlighted Sánchez's failure to convert his relative economic successes into more votes, with many left-wing voters lukewarm about the prime minister.

Critics of the left would argue that the government has reduced unemployment rather than achieved high employment as, with a rate of 12.9 per cent in the last quarter of 2022, Spain has one of the highest unemployment rates in the European Union.

This will not deter Diaz's popular appeal — one that Iglesias and his coterie argue does not preclude her from being a villain.



Yolanda Díaz is key to the government's fate

Official drained reservoir to retrieve phone

India
Peter Chappell

A government official in India has been suspended after he ordered a reservoir to be drained to retrieve a phone he dropped while taking a selfie.

It took workers three days to pump millions of litres of water out of the reservoir after Rajesh Vishwas dropped the £1,000 Samsung handset.

He claimed it held sensitive government information but was accused of misusing his position.

It was eventually found at the bottom of Kherkatta Dam, in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh, on Sunday, but was too waterlogged to work.

In a statement to Indian media, Vishwas said he had verbal permission from an official to drain "some water into a nearby canal". The pump ran for several days, emptying out about two million litres (440,000 gallons) of water, said to be enough to irrigate 6sq km (600 hectares) of farmland. His mission was stopped when another official arrived following a complaint.

Vishwas has denied misusing his position, and said the water he drained was from the overflow section of the reservoir and "not in usable condition".

JOSE PEREZ/BAUER-GRIFFIN/GETTY IMAGES



Fur flies Benedict Cumberbatch filming in New York for Netflix's Eric, in which he befriends the monster under his son's bed

Fever forces Pope to cancel his meetings

Italy
Tom Kington Rome

The Pope cancelled meetings on Friday after coming down with a fever, the Vatican said, weeks after he was admitted to hospital with bronchitis.

"Due to a fever, Pope Francis held no audiences this morning," Matteo Bruni, the Vatican spokesman, said without giving further details.

After a busy week, including a meeting with Italian bishops, the Pope, who is 86, looked tired on Thursday when he met students in Rome. In March he developed a fever and was taken to hospital, where doctors diagnosed bronchitis and treated him with antibiotics. He was discharged after three nights.

He has since made a three-day visit to Hungary and is due to travel to Portugal in August to attend a Catholic world youth day and visit the Shrine of Fatima, a pilgrimage site. On Sunday he is due to preside over Mass at St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

The Pope's hospital stay in March prompted speculation that he could resign if his health failed, following the example of his predecessor, Benedict, who became the first pope to resign in 600 years in 2013.

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Chart-topping groups such as Red Velvet and BTS, left, owe much of their success to little-known Scandinavian songwriters

Maestros give K-pop cocktail a big splash of Nordic fizz

Sweden
Oliver Moody

K-pop, a brand of hyper-disciplined dance music from South Korea, has taken the West by storm, with bands such as BTS routinely selling out stadiums and London's O2 Arena dedicating a three-day festival to the genre.

The foreign ministry in Seoul has identified Europe as the fastest-growing market for Korean culture, with a fan base of about 13 million people — and if some of the hits have a vaguely familiar ring to them, it may be because many were written by Europeans.

A number of Nordic songwriters disillusioned with diminishing returns from the western music industry have quietly established successful careers as composers and producers for some of the biggest acts from South Korea, Japan and, to a lesser extent, China and Thailand, despite being unable to speak the relevant languages.

Their influence is so strong that some east Asian pop musicians have begun referring to the "Scandinavian pop machine".

This is largely an economic phenomenon. The dominance of streaming services such as Spotify and YouTube has caused revenues to dry up for many western artists just as demand for merchandise and physical copies of music has taken off in Japan and South Korea. Over the years the style of east Asian pop music has also converged with its western counterparts as domestic acts have found global fame.

Christoffer Semelius, 36, a Swedish-Danish songwriter based in Los Angeles, now derives the vast majority of his income from K-pop and J-pop, its Japanese counterpart.

He said Japanese music labels often refrained from releasing music in electronic formats in order to ginger up sales of CDs or vinyl, with "superfans" sometimes buying half a dozen special editions of the same album.

"It's embarrassing," Semelius said. "I see songs where I have millions of streams and I get enough for lunch and a Starbucks coffee from the streaming. So for me, that's another reason why physical sales are so interesting to pursue, because it gives you an opportunity to write music and actually make a living out of it.

"Obviously, money is not the focus here — if I wanted money, I would have gone in a different direction. But it's a night-and-day difference getting physical sales compared to streams."



Max Martin, a Swede, works with the biggest acts in music

The Scandinavian countries, particularly Sweden, are unusually well placed to exploit this niche. Since the emergence of Abba in the 1970s they have developed a tradition of making music for a global audience and have many songwriters producing music for artists in other countries.

The best-known example is a Swede called Max Martin, who worked on hits from Britney Spears's *Baby One More Time* to Taylor Swift's *Shake it Off*, and is behind only Paul McCartney and John Lennon in the league table of Billboard Hot 100 No 1 singles.

European songwriters are now being headhunted by South Korean record labels in a highly professionalised industry where pop stars' private lives are often vigilantly policed.

The Scandinavian pop machine's beachhead in K-pop was the chart-topping 2009 single *Tell Me Your Wish (Genie)*, sung by Girls' Generation and written by a Norwegian team called DSign Music. Since then the Swedish DJ Cazzi Opeia, 34, has turned out hits for K-pop acts including BTS, Red Velvet and Enhypen.

Semelius, whose production career began in a Copenhagen piano shop, wrote the single *Umpah Umpah* for Red Velvet, which was named song of the year at the 2019 Asia artist awards in Seoul and was a No 1 hit in the K-pop chart.

His most recent hit is *Ready to Love*, created for a 13-strong South Korean boy band called Seventeen, which has been streamed 61 million times on YouTube and 70 million times on Spotify.

Semelius composes many of the songs with a stage performance in mind, since concert revenues are vital for South Korean and Japanese music labels. Usually the lyrics are written in English and then translated.

Despite his success, he remains fairly anonymous in east Asia. "I have a few Instagram followers, especially from Korea and Japan, who are very nice and very sweet," he said. "When we release a song, occasionally the artist will send a DM [direct message] and say thank you. But I definitely don't have a media profile or a fan following or anything."

Conductor quits opera in union row

France
Charles Bremner Paris

Gustavo Dudamel, the star conductor hired to revitalise the troubled Paris Opera, has resigned amid reports of his frustration over disputes between unions and management.

The cancellation of tour dates at the Barbican Centre in London and the Vienna Musikverein last month is said to have pushed Dudamel, 42, to quit as musical director less than two years into his six-year contract.

The Venezuelan *chef d'orchestre*, who has also been musical director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic since 2009, said he was leaving "to spend more time with my family", adding: "We live in a time that, I believe, has profoundly and intimately shaken our beings." Opera insiders say the exuberant super-maestro was frustrated by union disputes at the state-subsidised flagship of French opera and ballet.

The unions, which led a strike in 2019 against President Macron's first attempt to reform their pensions, wanted more money for time spent on the road. In the aftermath, promoters of a forthcoming American tour have been seeking financial guarantees that the management could not accept, Le Figaro reported. Describing Dudamel's departure as a "waste", it said: "He is accustomed to the [US] model but not the French state sector … whose heaviness is well known. It was culture shock."



The recruitment of Gustavo Dudamel was viewed as a masterstroke

Alexander Neef, the Paris Opera's German director, who was credited with a masterstroke when he brought in Dudamel in 2021, called him a tremendous musician. The company, which stages opera at its modern house on the Place de la Bastille and ballet at the 19th-century Palais Garnier, is struggling to cover losses caused by the strike and the pandemic.

Dudamel, who has a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, took the Paris job after discovering "extraordinary chemistry" with the musicians when he conducted Puccini's *La Bohème* there in 2017.

Bomb attack fears as plane door is opened in mid-air

South Korea
Charles Bremner

A man has been arrested after he opened a door on an Asiana Airlines aeroplane as it was nearing touchdown in South Korea, causing panic on board.

Nine teenagers were treated in hospital for shortness of breath after the incident on an Airbus A321 aircraft carrying 194 passengers.

The Korean airliner was minutes from landing on its one-hour flight to the city of Daegu from the holiday island of Jeju when, at about 600ft above ground and the passengers strapped in, a man in his thirties rose from his seat by the rear left emergency exit and pulled its release lever. Powered by a gas piston, the door slid open and the emergency escape slide inflated before being ripped off in the slipstream.

The man appeared to try to jump out, witnesses said. He was arrested after the aircraft landed.

A passenger told the Yonhap News Agency: "I thought the plane was blowing up. I thought I was going to die."

Police said the suspect had so far not given any explanation for his actions. He was not under the influence of alcohol when arrested, they added.

"It is difficult to have a normal conversation with him," an official said. "We will investigate the motive of the crime and punish him."



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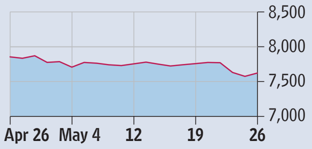
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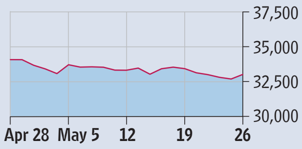
Business

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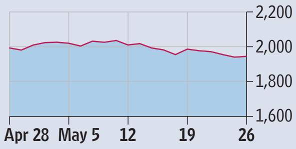


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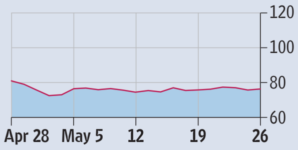


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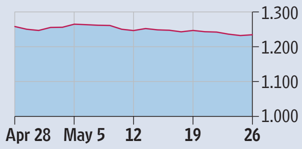


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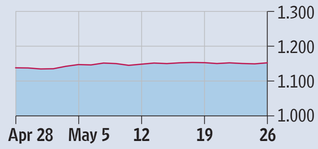


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Wall Street rallies as hopes rise that debt ceiling deal is close

Emma Powell, Mehreen Khan

America's stock markets ended the week on a strong note last night as the White House and congressional Republicans worked on the final touches to raise the country's $31.4 trillion debt ceiling limit.

After several rounds of talks, President Biden and Kevin McCarthy, the senior congressional Republican, are close to a deal to increase the government's debt limit ahead of a June 1 deadline, while capping spending on most items, according to a US official.

In New York, the S&P 500, widely regarded as a barometer on the health of the world's largest economy, closed up 1.3 per cent, or 54.17 points, at 4,205.45, extending a two-day rally, while the Dow Jones industrial average was up 328.69 points, or 1 per cent, at 33,093.34. The technology-heavy Nasdaq index rose 277.59 points, or 2.2 per cent, to finish at 12,975.69.

The prospect of a two-year debt ceiling agreement led investors to overlook a higher than expected rise in the Federal Reserve's preferred measure of inflation. The personal consumption expenditures index, which measures how much consumers pay for goods and services, rose by 0.4 per cent in April, higher than the 0.3 per cent rise forecast.

Republicans have demanded spending cuts worth tens of billions of dollars in return for agreeing to raise the government's borrowing cap. This has raised fresh fears of a sharp slowdown in US growth in the coming years. Ethan Harris, global economist at Bank of America, warned that even with a deal, the debt ceiling brinkmanship still "threatens a major shock to the economy, while not addressing the fundamental debt problem".

Amanda Lynam, head of credit research at BlackRock, said spending cuts could lead to the risk of global recession, which would be bad for equities and bond prices. "Our current base case for the US in 2023 is one of below-trend growth, elevated services inflation and restrictive monetary policy," she said. "To the extent that meaningful spending cuts or caps are agreed upon as part of any debt deal, this would pose downside risks to growth and would raise the risk of a recession."

Goldman Sachs' analysts have estimated that economic growth would not be "meaningfully" hurt if the Biden administration was forced to freeze spending next year or to implement federal budgets cuts of 0.5 per cent of GDP.

Biotech firm faces wrath for US move

Abcam founder slams board over New York switch

Alex Ralph
Chief Business Correspondent

The founder of one of Britain's most successful biotechnology companies has attacked its move from London to New York, calling the switch a "story of UK-phobia and a push for higher remuneration".

In an open letter to investors, Jonathan Milner, one of Abcam's largest shareholders, said the handling of the company's listing on America's Nasdaq index had been "poorly executed" and that the opportunity to attract new shareholders had been "wasted".

Milner, 58, founded Abcam in 1998 and turned it into one of the largest companies on the London's Aim stock exchange, with a valuation of about $5 billion by 2019, before stepping down from the board the following year.

The Cambridge-based company's decision last year to cancel its listing on Aim, where it had been since 2005, and instead to have a sole listing on Nasdaq, where it took a secondary listing in 2020, was seen as a setback to the government's drive to encourage more companies to float in London.

It was the latest in a number of promising British life sciences companies to opt for New York, including Vaccitech, the Oxford company whose technology is behind the AstraZeneca Covid vaccine, and Immunocore.

Concerns about businesses looking to New York rather than London have increased since then and this month the Financial Conduct Authority outlined proposals to stem the defections and to persuade more innovative technology-focused businesses to float in London. The number of initial public offerings in the UK has fallen by about 40 per cent since 2008.

Milner, who is seeking shareholder support to rejoin the board as executive chairman, said that one of Abcam's reasons for listing in the United States — "among numerous that never transpired"— was to "garner additional US analyst coverage". However, since delisting from Aim the company's coverage had reduced from eight to two analysts in Britain while expanding only from four to five in America, he said.

Milner added: "The Nasdaq listing aimed to attract new shareholders and yet no new major shareholders have joined the register or since I left in 2020."

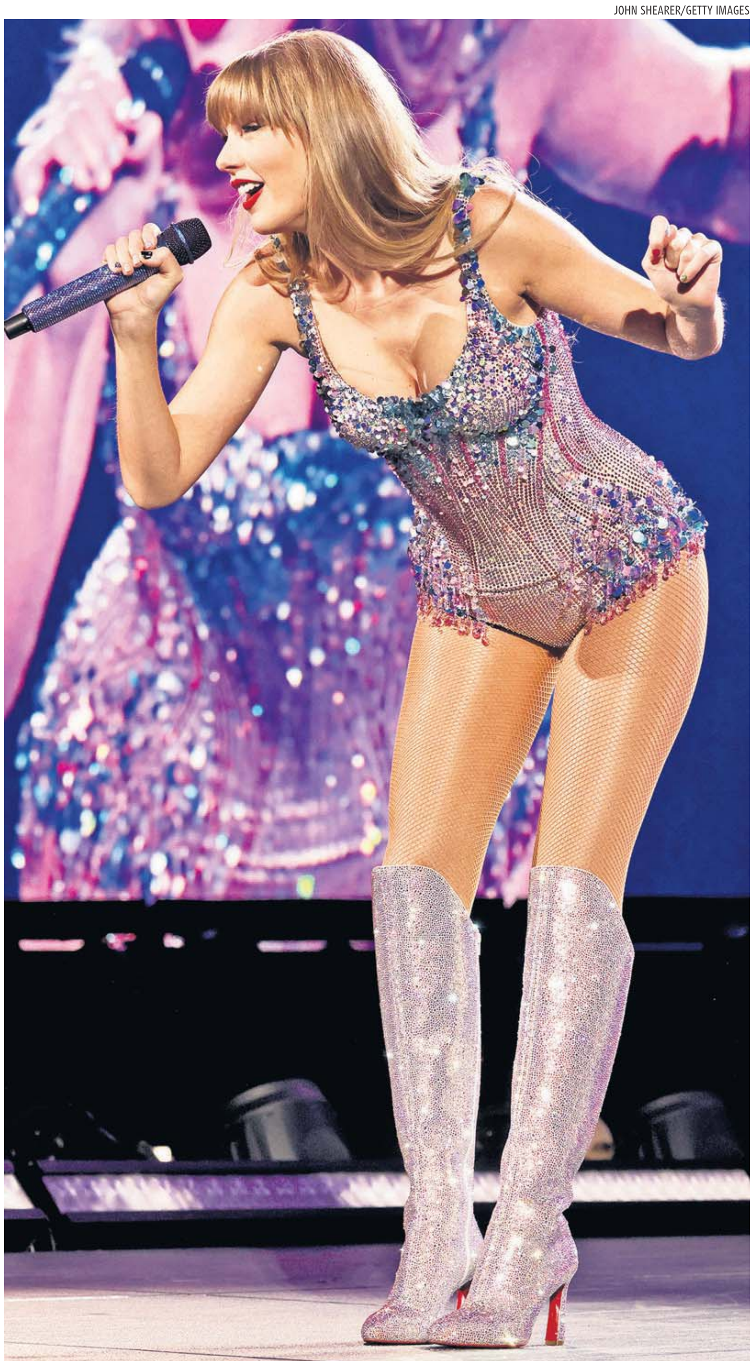
Milner, who retains about 6.3 per cent of Abcam, is seeking to call an extraordinary general meeting in order to replace Peter Allen, the chairman and a former chairman of Oxford Nanopore, whom he said was "weak".

Claiming "executives have not been held to account for their disproportionate remuneration demands, poor execution and poor cost-controls", Milner said Abcam needed to "enhance focus on governance, execution and cost-control" to reclaim its reputation as the "Amazon of antibodies".

About 750,000 life sciences researchers globally use Abcam's antibodies, reagents, biomarkers and assays, having grown from supplying a "handful of antibodies in an ice-bucket" to local

Continued on page 50

JOHN SHEARER/GETTY IMAGES



A leg-up Christian Louboutin, the luxury footwear brand favoured by pop stars including Taylor Swift, is back in profit after the pandemic. Accounts for Christian Louboutin UK show that in the year to August 2022, turnover rose by 48.3 per cent to £53.4 million, with pre-tax profits of £1.2 million, up from a £3.2 million loss

Bosses urged to back Allan over conduct

Alex Ralph, Richard Fletcher

Endorsements are being sought from senior company bosses for John Allan, the former president of the CBI, in an effort to support the City veteran after allegations about his behaviour towards women. A letter is being circulated to executives to sign that outlines how Allan, 74, has supported women throughout his career.

Allan this week agreed a board request to step down as chairman of Barratt Developments three months early to prevent allegations about his behaviour from becoming "disruptive". Last week Tesco said he would be standing down as chairman of its board next month. Barratt said it had not received complaints about Allan during his time at the company and Tesco said it had found no evidence of wrongdoing but that the allegations "risk becoming a distraction".

Allan is facing claims of inappropriate and unprofessional behaviour in the wake of the scandal at the CBI. He has denied three of the claims and has "unreservedly apologised" for a fourth, in which he allegedly told a CBI manager at the business lobby group's annual conference in November 2019: "That dress really suits your figure."

The letter, said not to be his initiative, is understood to have been sent to male and female bosses. It is unclear how many signatures it has secured.

This week Allan said: "My early departure from Barratt is a result of the anonymous and unsubstantiated allegations made against me, as reported in The Guardian, which I vehemently deny." In a recent interview with The Sunday Times, he said he had received more than 100 messages of support since the story broke, many from women. "It's a bit galling for me, because anyone who knows me knows that I've spent a fair chunk of my working life actually trying to ensure there are opportunities for women," he said. "I've definitely been on the side of the angels."

Need to know

1 Tens of thousands of people have had their bank holiday and half-term plans disrupted after British Airways cancelled more than 150 flights because of an IT failure. The cancellations were mostly on short-haul routes to and from Heathrow. **Page 2**

2 The Post Office told its fraud investigators to racially classify potential suspects, including "negroid types", during the company's false prosecution spree. Yesterday it apologised and admitted that the "unacceptable" language, contained in guidance published between 2008 and 2011, was "racist". **Page 5**

3 American stock markets ended the week on a strong note as the White House and congressional Republicans worked on the final touches to raise the country's $31.4 trillion debt ceiling limit. **Page 49**

4 Jonathan Milner, the founder of Abcam, one of Britain's most successful biotechnology companies, has attacked its move from London to New York, calling the switch a "story of UK-phobia and a push for higher remuneration". **Page 49**

5 Endorsements are being sought from senior company bosses for John Allan, 74, the former president of the CBI, in an effort to support the City veteran after allegations about his behaviour towards women. **Page 49**

6 Credit Suisse has been ordered by a Singaporean court to pay $926 million to a former prime minister of Georgia in a further blow to the lender before it is swallowed by the rival UBS in an emergency rescue.

7 The financial maelstrom that hit UK assets after the mini-budget of Liz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng last year was attributed caustically to investors hitting Britain with a "moron premium". The term originated among financial commentators online to explain why gilts were being sold off at the same time as the pound, a dynamic usually associated with poorer emerging markets during a currency crisis. **Page 52-53**

8 A scandal that has engulfed PwC in Australia deepened after a partner in the Big Four accountancy firm was placed under investigation by federal police amid allegations that he had shared confidential information about the government's tax policy. **Pages 54-55**

9 Ocado is set to be ejected from London's leading share index next week after soaring losses prompted a sharp fall in its share price. The Hertfordshire-based online grocer's value has more than halved in the past year. **Page 55**

10 As chief executive of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult, Katherine Bennett is overseeing Britain's efforts to combine ingenious academic ideas with problem-solving engineering and manufacturing. The catapult has helped 22,000 companies on 5,000 research and development projects over the past 12 years. **The Manifesto, page 57**

Insurance climate plan 'needs rejig' after exits

Patrick Hosking Financial Editor

The chief executive of Lloyd's of London has called for a rethink of a United Nations-backed insurance industry initiative to tackle climate change after five of the world's biggest insurers pulled out in the space of only two days.

John Neal said Lloyd's had no plans to join the exodus, but said the Net-Zero Insurance Alliance needed to consider a change of direction. "NZIA need to have another look at what their objectives are or the alliance will fall apart," he said.

Climate-change campaigners said the alliance, championed by Mark Carney, the former Bank of England governor, was "disintegrating before our eyes" as the Australia-based QBE became the latest insurer to desert it.

On Thursday Allianz, of Germany, Axa and Scor, of France, and Sompo Holdings, of Japan, pulled out. Other big insurers and reinsurers that have withdrawn in recent weeks include Swiss Re, Munich Re, Zurich and Hannover Re.

Analysts said the group was buckling under pressure from Republican-controlled states in America, which want to support the oil and gas industry and claim that an activist climate change agenda is pushing up fuel prices and worsening financial hardship.

The alliance was one of the key initiatives orchestrated by Carney before the UN climate change conference in Glasgow in 2021. It was set up to establish common standards and processes for insurers to meet their commitments to achieve net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050.

The attorneys-general of 23 states wrote to the insurance alliance on May 15 setting out "serious concerns" about the protocols for target-setting announced by the group. They said these might not match federal or state laws and that an agreement among insurers not to do business with a company could constitute an illegal boycott or a cartel.

Most of the insurers that have pulled out of the alliance have large operations in the United States.

Carney's Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero hit back yesterday, saying: "These political attacks are now interfering with insurers' independent efforts to price climate risk, which will harm policyholders, main street investors and local economies."

The number of big insurers still listed as members of the NZIA has dwindled to 22. Among British insurers, Aviva, Beazley and Lloyd's remain members.

Aviva said it was sticking with the alliance, which had "played an important role developing the critical standards and frameworks for insurers to meet net zero. We are saddened by recent developments and will work with the UN and other members to seek an orderly resolution. We remain fully committed to pursuing our ambition of becoming a net-zero company by 2040."

Lloyd's was one of the insurers criticised in the officials' letter, accused of "bragging about" its anti-competitive conduct. They wrote: "Lloyd's is using its central position in the insurance industry to force insurers to adopt net zero, whether they want to or not."

Allianz and Axa have pledged to carry on with their climate goals, while Scor added a new commitment after leaving the NZIA. Some insurers are already refusing to write insurance cover for new thermal coalmines and some new oil and gas projects.

The state officials' attack also focused on the UN-convened Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance, which brings together fund managers, many of which are owned by insurers. Allianz, Axa, Scor, Sompo and QBE all appeared to still be signed up to that group, according to its list of members last night.





'L'Oréal for teens' dream turns ugly for Revolution

The future of Revolution Beauty could be in doubt if its shares are not readmitted to trading on the stock market within a reasonable time and if cost of living pressures cause its sales to worsen (Emma Powell writes).

Auditors signing off the crisis-hit cosmetics company's delayed annual results said there was a "material uncertainty" that may cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern.

BDO considered a "severe but plausible" scenario, where sales were reduced by 10 per cent from June and the risk that it breaches revised covenant terms.

Revolution was launched by Adam Minto, 53, and Thomas Allsworth, 57, in 2014 with ambitions to create a "mini-L'Oréal" for shoppers aged 16 to 35. It was floated on the junior Aim stock exchange in July 2021 with a valuation of about £500 million. Its value had fallen to £59 million by the time trading in its shares was suspended after concerns about its finances emerged last September.

Yesterday the company issued restated trading figures for the 12 months to the end of February last year, which showed that the company had fallen to an adjusted loss of £800,000 in the period, £23 million below the £22.2 million profit announced previously. The adjustments included a £11.3 million additional stock provision and excess freight costs of £3.1 million. If costs relating to its 2021 float, acquisitions and audit fees are included, it suffered a pre-tax loss of £44.9 million, up from £17.8 million in 2021.

Revolution Beauty, which sells cosmetics via online platforms and in about 15,000 stores worldwide, including Superdrug and Boots, had delayed

Klarna maps out a route to profit

Ben Martin

Klarna said it was on course to return to profit after losses at the Swedish "buy now, pay later" group narrowed in the first quarter of the year.

The Stockholm-based financial technology business said its operating losses had fallen to SwKr1.19 billion (£89.4 million) in the three months to the end of March, an improvement from the SwKr2.45 billion deficit it reported a year earlier.

On an adjusted basis, its losses improved by 78 per cent and Sebastian Siemiatkowski, 41, Klarna's chief executive, who co-founded the business in 2005, said: "We are on track to achieve profitability this year."

A return to the black would be a significant boost for Klarna, which last reported an annual profit in 2018.

The company was a pioneer of the buy now, pay later industry. Its credit services are used by 150 million shoppers through more than 500,000 merchants in 45 countries and it has payments partnerships with companies including Airbnb and Samsung.

It has come under pressure in recent years amid growing regulatory concerns worldwide about the credit it offers, which enables shoppers to split up payments for purchases.

It was once Europe's most valuable privately owned financial technology company after a fundraising in June 2021 put a $45.6 billion price on the business, buoyed by investors' enthusiasm for technology companies during the Covid-19 pandemic, when online shopping boomed. Since then, valuations in technology sectors have fallen sharply amid the recent rises in interest rates. Klarna has been one of the biggest casualties and its valuation fell by 85 per cent to $6.7 billion in a fundraising last summer. It also embarked on two rounds of job cuts last year.

Britain is clamping down on buy now, pay later models because of concerns that consumers are building up unaffordable debts using this type of credit. These worries have been made worse by the cost of living crisis. In February the government set out plans for the Financial Conduct Authority to regulate the industry. Andrew Griffith, the City minister, said that there should be "clear protections in place".

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49
Abcam founder's scathing attack

scientists. Milner was offered a non-executive board seat but said it had been "subject to restrictions that would impair my ability to hold management accountable".

In his letter, issued on the day of Abcam's annual meeting last week, he said investor concerns were ignored and the problems "exacerbated by an 'echo chamber effect' between the executives, the chairman and the board".

In response to Milner's calls for a shareholder meeting, Abcam said "the company is disappointed that despite the board's clear and consistent efforts to engage constructively … he has instead pursued aggressive tactics as he seeks to force the company to agree to his demands". It said directors had received "overwhelming" support from shareholders at the AGM.

REVOLUTION BEAUTY



Revolution Beauty was launched by Adam Minto, left, and Thomas Allsworth with big ambitions but its value has plunged amid heavy losses

key information when acquiring a company owned by its chairman.

Allsworth and Minto, the company's second biggest shareholder after Boohoo Group with a 15.8 per cent stake, stepped down at the end of last year and the company appointed Bob Holt, 68, a turnaround specialist, as chief executive.

A £32 million debt facility secured in March has been drawn and waivers of breaches to the original agreement with lenders are dependent on the shares being readmitted to trading "within a reasonable timeframe". Revised covenants also were agreed, which include a minimum liquidity threshold of £5 million.

If covenants are breached or the shares are not readmitted, the company will be reliant on its lenders not requiring immediate repayment of the outstanding loan or on obtaining alternative finance in order to continue to operate as a going concern.

Revolution Beauty said it had "a good relationship with its banking partners and is confident of their continued support". It plans to publish its results for the six months to the end of August last year within the next two weeks, along with progress on lifting the suspension of its shares.

Holt said: "Integrity and honesty in every aspect of our business is paramount. This has been the focus of the new leadership team as we reset internal controls and processes to ensure that we are in a position to achieve consistent operational excellence at a global scale, and in line with the standards of a UK plc."

Asos raises £75m amid sales slide

Investors gave a frosty response to a fresh fundraising by Asos, as the fast-fashion company tried to strengthen its balance sheet amid a slide in sales.

The Aim-listed company raised £75 million in cash from shareholders and announced that £275 million in financing had been agreed with Bantry Bay Capital, which runs until April 2026.

The new facilities will replace existing arrangements that were due to expire next year.

The shares, which have slumped by 72 per cent over the past year, were down by a further 2.9 per cent, or 12p, to close at 406p yesterday.

This month the group reported a £291 million pre-tax loss, which was caused by weaker sales and restructuring costs.

José Antonio Ramos Calamonte, 51, who has led the embattled company since last June, said there had been an increase in customer returns and the return of shoppers to the high street after the Covid-19 pandemic.

its accounts after an investigation into its finances by Macfarlanes. The City law firm was appointed when Revolution Beauty's auditors at BDO refused to sign off its accounts.

Macfarlanes discovered that the company had made "unacceptable" loans to senior managers, had requested that distributors book orders worth £9.6 million to meet financial targets and had failed to consider

Credit Suisse must hand over £750m to Georgian tycoon

Ben Martin Banking Editor

Credit Suisse has been ordered to pay £750 million to a former prime minister of Georgia in a further blow to the beleaguered lender before it is swallowed by UBS in an emergency rescue deal.

The payment ordered by a court in Singapore is the latest twist in a long-running legal battle between Switzerland's second biggest bank and Bidzina Ivanishvili, a billionaire tycoon who led the government of Georgia between 2012 and 2013.

Last year a court in Bermuda awarded Ivanishvili damages of just over £486 million after he took legal action against Credit Suisse's local life insurance business there.

The clash with Ivanishvili, 67, is one of several legal disputes and scandals that have dogged the bank in recent years. These have included Credit Suisse being found guilty in Switzerland last year of failing to prevent money laundering by Bulgarian cocaine traffickers. It is appealing against the ruling.

These issues and heavy trading losses weakened investors' confidence in the group, leaving it vulnerable when a string of American regional banks were plunged into crisis in March, sending shockwaves throughout the global financial system.

This forced Swiss authorities to intervene, orchestrating a hasty sale of Credit Suisse to UBS, its bigger domestic banking rival. The emergency takeover is due to be completed early next month and will mark the end of Credit Suisse's independence after 167 years.

The dispute between Ivanishvili and the Zurich-based bank centres on the activities of Patrice Lescaudron, a Credit Suisse private banker who was convicted of fraud in Geneva 2018. Lescaudron was a former star wealth manager at the bank who was found to have taken money from rich clients, including Ivanishvili. He was released from prison in 2019 and killed himself the following year.

Finma, the Swiss banking regulator, censured Credit Suisse for inadequately supervising Lescaudron. An independent report into the affair, which was leaked in 2021, found that Credit Suisse had overlooked a string of warning signs about Lescaudron.

The court in Singapore was told that Ivanishvili had deposited more than £890 million with Credit Suisse Trust Limited. In a written ruling yesterday, the judge said that the bank had "preferred the 'importance' of Mr Lescaudron in retaining the 'big client' (the plaintiff) with the Credit Suisse organisation to the compliance with its core obligation of keeping the Trust assets safe.

"It knew that Mr Lescaudron was in breach of its directions that had been established for the purpose of avoiding employee fraud and in some instances waited for up to two years for a response from him when he was questioned about his flagrant breaches. Its tolerance of these flagrant breaches was not in good faith and was unreasonable."

Ivanishvili was awarded £750 million by the court, less the £64 million the bank had already paid.

Credit Suisse said: "The judgment published today is wrong and poses very significant legal issues. Credit Suisse Trust Limited intends to vigorously pursue an appeal."

Lazard turns to ex-Obama adviser as bank's next boss

Simon Freeman

Peter Orszag, a former economic adviser to President Obama, will succeed Ken Jacobs as chief executive of Lazard, the venerable Wall Street investment bank.

In an internal memo to staff that was first reported by The Wall Street Journal, Orszag, 54, called on its employees to "help lift Lazard to new heights in our relevance, our relationships and our shareholder returns."

He outlined an intention to expand the bank's asset management business, which accounts for roughly 40 per cent of revenues, and to be the "go-to destination on all aspects of complex corporate finance".

Orszag's appointment, considered to be among the smoothest transfers of power in Lazard's colourful 175-year history, comes as the bank struggles to recapture its fortunes and reputation as a global financial powerhouse. A drought in deal-making meant a fall in first-quarter operating revenue of 25 per cent to $527 million and the company announced plans to cut about 300 jobs, or 10 per cent of its workforce.

Orszag, who began his career as a lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley, joined the bank from Citigroup in 2016, having previously spent several years inside the White House as a senior economic adviser in the Obama administration. He has run Lazard's financial advisory unit since 2019 and recently played a central role in advising First Republic Bank, the collapsed regional lender, on its sale to JP Morgan. The change will be effective from October 1.

Jacobs, 64, who took over as chief executive in 2009, told The Sunday Times: "When you think about Lazard, there's been three periods of turmoil in modern history and they all revolve around the same issue: leadership succession. I've been thinking about that almost from the very beginning [of my tenure]. It is well planned, well thought-through by myself and the board and it will be obvious."



Peter Orszag was an economic adviser to President Obama

Clarity sought over Glencore emissions

Jon Rees

Just over 30 per cent of Glencore's investors who voted at its annual meeting yesterday rejected the company's climate report and almost as many voted in favour of a motion demanding more clarity on how the global miner will meet its commitments to cut emissions.

More than 29 per cent of investors who voted were in favour of the motion seeking detail on how it planned to scale back thermal coal production in a way aligned with the 2015 Paris agreement goal of capping temperatures within a 1.5C increase of pre-industrial levels.

This resolution was put by a group of shareholders co-ordinated by the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility and ShareAction. Glencore's directors had recommended that investors vote against it because it risked undermining the board's responsibility for its climate strategy.

Glencore said that while it noted that most of its shareholders had rejected both motions, it also recognised those that had chosen to support the resolutions. "We will continue to engage with shareholders so as to ensure their views are fully understood and to better understand the reasons behind these results," it said. Glencore said it would publish an update on this engagement within six months of yesterday's meeting, as required by the code on corporate governance.

Institutional Shareholder Services, Glass Lewis and Pirc, the leading shareholder advisory services, had advised investors before the meeting to vote against the climate progress report and in favour of the resolution demanding more clarity on its plans to cut emissions. "Questions persist over the plan's alignment to Paris goals," ISS had said in a note to investors before the vote.

Legal & General Investment Management, Britain's largest asset manager, and Allianz Global Investors were among the shareholders that said they would support the resolution.

Glencore mines and trades thermal coal used to generate electricity and has said it plans to run down its mines by the mid-2040s. Shares in Glencore rose 6¼p, or 1.5 per cent, to 422½p.

Mini-budget chaos led to UK 'moron premium'



Mehreen Khan Economics Editor

The financial maelstrom that hit UK assets after the mini-budget of Liz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng last year was attributed caustically to investors hitting Britain with a "moron premium".

The term originated among financial commentators online to explain why gilts were being sold off at the same time as the pound, a dynamic usually associated with poorer emerging markets during a currency crisis.

This week sterling and gilts marched in step once again as bond prices fell sharply and the currency weakened. However, rather than fears over irresponsible tax cuts from an iconoclastic government, the market volatility was triggered by concern that Britain's stubborn inflation would not be quickly vanquished. "The morons are no longer in the government but at the Bank of England," one market insider said.

Investors have lifted their rate-rise expectations this week after worrying inflation numbers showed underlying price pressures at their strongest in 31 years. Food price inflation, which has become a growing political problem for the government, remained stuck above 19 per cent, defying expectations of a fall last month.

> **4.35%**
> UK ten-year gilt yield, compared with 2.5% for the German equivalent
> HM Treasury

Before Wednesday's inflation figures, money markets had expected only one more rate rise next month; now they think the Bank will have to lift rates another four times to 5.5 per cent from 4.5 per cent. That would take them to their highest level since December 2007 and would bring borrowing costs to the level that investors had earmarked after Kwarteng announced £40 billion of tax cuts last September.

Higher UK interest rates have stung the gilts market, with the yield on two and ten-year government bonds climbing to their highest level since the mini-budget fallout. The pound, which normally would have strengthened on the back of interest rate expectations, weakened by 0.4 percentage points against the dollar after the inflation release to dip below $1.24 for the first time in a month.

The dynamics driving the currency resemble the "emerging market-like correlations of the Liz Truss era", according to Jordan Rochester, director of foreign exchange strategy at Nomura. "In developed markets, when bonds sell off, money usually moves into the currency and equities; in emerging markets, when bonds sell there are flows out of the currency as it reflects a wider loss of confidence in the economy." He said the poor inflation data reflected worries about persistently high prices and deteriorating global growth prospects. "If inflation is similarly sticky in the eurozone and the United States, it means all central banks will have to be hawkish and global growth will suffer. In this environment, the pound sells."

Gilt yields, which reflect the government's borrowing costs, have broken out of a range with big trading partners and are the highest in the G7. The ten-year gilt yield has hit 4.35 per cent, compared with the equivalent German Bund at 2.5 per cent and US Treasuries at 3.2 per cent. Britain's ten-year borrowing costs peaked at 4.5 per cent on the day of the mini-budget.

Analysts at Bank of America think the debt dynamics mean the UK is even more reliant on the "kindness of strangers" to fund its way in the world. The phrase refers to the warning in 2016 from Mark Carney, the former Bank of England governor, that the Brexit vote could lead foreign investors to dump UK assets en masse, a warning that looked close to coming true during the mini-budget chaos.

Britain has a longstanding current account deficit, which hit a record of 8 per cent last summer but has begun to narrow this year amid the falling cost of energy imports. The deficit means the economy requires constant flows of foreign credit to finance itself.

Mark Dowding, chief investment officer at BlueBay Asset Management, a big holder of gilts, thinks the UK has lost its safe-haven status with markets. "It is not clear that overseas investors will be rushing to the rescue soon," he said. "The penny is starting to drop on inflation. It seems likely to us that UK inflation will stay stuck at much higher levels than in other developed economies and this will push a reluctant Bank to continue to hike rates.

"Recently, there has been a sense that demand for UK bonds has been dropping. With the gilt market dependent on institutional demand, this runs the risk of the underperformance extending as the government needs to continue to finance itself." A slowing economy, high borrowing costs and a rising government deficit could mean that the pound "ends up having to bear the strain", he said.

The pound has shed nearly 3 per cent against the dollar this month, falling to $1.23 from a peak of $1.26. Sterling had been the best-performing leading currency so far this year as traders were betting that the long-term value of the pound would rise against the euro and dollar.

The bearish mood around UK assets jars with the improvement in the country's economic outlook this year. This week the International Monetary Fund reversed its forecast for a British recession this year and it no longer thinks Britain will be bringing up the rear in the global growth league table.

The economy is expected to expand by 0.4 per cent, compared with the

Retail sales recover as sunny high streets draw back shoppers

Arthi Nachiappan
Economics Correspondent

Retail sales recovered by more than expected last month as shoppers returned to the high street, reversing some of the decline in March that had been caused by poor weather.

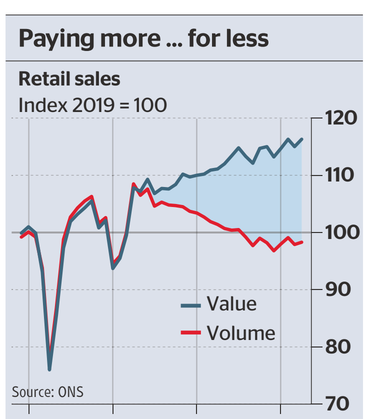
Sales volumes rose by 0.5 per cent in April, after a 1.2 fall the month before, figures from the Office for National Statistics showed. City economists had predicted a 0.2 per cent increase. The volume of sales rose by a total of 0.8 per cent in the three months to April, the fastest quarterly growth rate since August 2021.

Grant Fitzner, chief economist at the ONS, said: "Retail sales grew, partially rebounding from a poor weather-affected March, with jewellers, sports retailers and department stores all having a good month. Despite continued high food prices, supermarkets also recovered from the fall in March."

Volumes of sales at food stores remained 2.7 per cent below pre-pandemic levels as people reined in spending with grocery inflation at its highest level in decades.

Fuel sales dropped by 2.2 per cent, which Ashley Webb, UK economist at the Capital Economics consultancy, said could be explained by more people using public transport because of the lack of strike action last month.

Retail sales are seen as an early indicator of economic activity before gross domestic product figures for April are published next month. The economy has performed better than expected by many forecasters last autumn, but growth remains close to zero.



Inflation fell to 8.7 per cent last month, from 10.1 per cent, but it remains higher than the Bank of England and other forecasters expected.

Core inflation also has risen, which has raised market expectations of further interest rate rises, has hit the pound and has resulted in a jump in the yield on UK government bonds to levels last reached during the turmoil after the mini-budget last year.

Webb said rising interest rates would weigh on consumer spending, adding: "We expect further rises in interest rates, from 4.5 per cent now to a peak of 5.25 per cent, and for them to stay high until late next year. That will mean real consumer spending is more likely to decline later this year than rise."

The latest official figures are a boost to the hard-pressed retail sector after a CBI sentiment survey this week found that retail sales volumes had fallen this month compared with the same period last year, while staffing levels had dropped sharply. Volumes fell to a balance of -10 per cent in the survey of 123 respondents, 46 of which were retailers, which had recorded 5 per cent growth the month before.

Retailers also said their staff headcounts had fallen at the fastest pace since the end February 2009.



Source: Bank of England & FactSet

IMF's January forecast of a contraction of up to 0.6 per cent. Britain's jobs market also has held up well in the face of rapidly rising borrowing costs and unemployment is unlikely to breach 4.5 per cent in the coming two years, according to the Bank's forecasts.

For all the government's attempts to wipe out the memory of the short-lived Truss era by abandoning tax cuts and reaffirming its commitment to fiscal rectitude, however, the reputational damage could prove to be permanent. "The pound's decline illustrates how dominance can fade over time," Gabriel Agostini, at Moody's Investor Service, said.

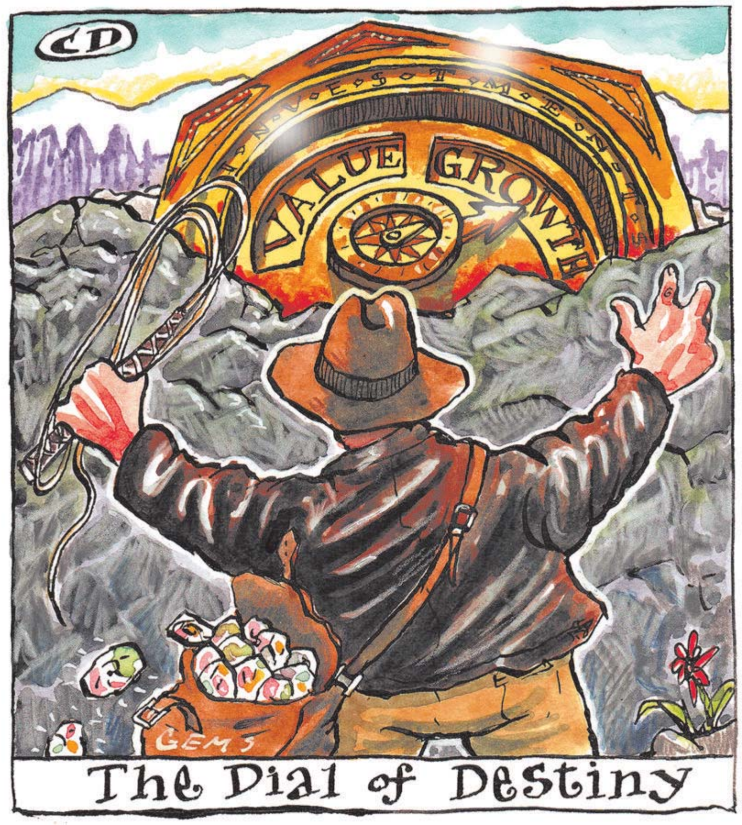
Dominic O'Connell



Will higher interest rates tip the scales back in favour of value investing?

There is no secret to making money on the stock market. First, find good companies whose shares are cheaper than they should be. Second, wait for other investors to come to the same conclusion. Third, watch the shares rise as more and more people buy in. Fourth, sell the shares and buy that five-star, all-inclusive holiday in the Bahamas. Simple! But if you had followed that formula over the past decade, you would have made a mistake. This style of investing, normally called a "value" strategy by professional fund managers, has lagged behind another popular style called "growth".

Growth investors do not much care how cheap shares are relative to the market; they want to spot those that will increase their sales and profits most quickly in future. They bet that other investors will think the same and place a high value on those potential future earnings, pushing up the shares. If you had gone for growth over the past decade, the meteoric rise of companies such as Apple, Alphabet, Tesla and Amazon would have sent your portfolio to the heavens; if you had stuck with value and bought low-rated companies such as BT, GSK and ITV, you would have had much lower returns.



Value versus growth is a staple conversation whenever fund managers get together (though this, as you probably guessed, is a simplified version of the whole value-versus-growth debate: there are many strands to the argument and many different definitions of what counts as value and what as growth).

The triumph of growth is odd because normally value wins hands-down. A well-known Bank of America study found that if you had invested only in American value stocks since 1926, your return to date would have been 1.3 million per cent. If you had invested in the whole market, you would have made half that. Roberta Barr, head of value ESG (environmental, social and governance) at Schroders, the fund management firm, points out that value has beaten growth in every decade since the 1930s, except the one we have just been through.

There is an obvious explanation for the past ten years. Central banks pushed interest rates down close to zero as they tried to flog life into the economy, first after the 2007-08 banking crisis and then in response to the pandemic. This pushed money out of fixed-income investments (bank accounts and bonds, which offered almost no returns) and into the stock market. Low rates also made investors value the promise of future profits more highly and led them to buy the shares of companies that had the best growth prospects, such as Tesla and Apple.

Low rates were not the only factor at work. Thanks to the internet, there was also a radical shift in how the economy worked. Technology companies not only had better growth prospects but also the capability to wipe out some old-economy sectors altogether. Shares in high street retailers and travel agencies might have looked cheap, but they did not turn out to be good value because their sales were being swept up by online rivals.

There was also a big shift in how money was put into the market. Retail investors, and some institutions, worked out that there was no point in paying high fees for clever money managers when the whole market was going up. Instead, they put their money with passive investment funds, which make no attempt to pick winners but follow the market for a very low charge. Another big pool of money has shifted to quant and high-frequency trading funds, which make money from market anomalies.

Rates have now risen sharply and, as predicted, technology stocks have fallen. Value investors, a much reduced group, believe that their time has come again. Given the lesson of history and the likelihood that sticky inflation will keep rates higher for longer, it surely must make sense for investors to look for cheap shares.

That might be right, eventually. In the past 12 months, value funds have done well, but it has not been a slam dunk. The FTSE 100, out of favour when rates were low and technology was all the rage, has held its own in the past year — up 0.1 per cent — but it has not raced away from the S&P 500 in the United States (down 0.1 per cent) or, indeed, the tech-heavy Nasdaq, which, while some way off its 2021 highs, has still managed a 14 per cent gain over the same period. The pull of the growth story remains strong, as the startling ascent this week of Nvidia, the American chip producer demonstrates.

Some believe the changes of the past decade have changed markets so much that it would be wrong to expect a return to normality. David Einhorn, one of the best-known value investors in the US, said recently that he was not sure value would ever return. So many practitioners had been driven out of business, he said, that there was hardly anyone left who wanted to investigate companies and find hidden gems. Even when he alighted on a good but undervalued company, the shares would never go up because no one was looking the same way.

He cited company investor calls, when managements take questions from analysts and fund managers after a set of financial results. They used to be crowded, but now were often deserted. Einhorn hinted to Bloomberg in a recent interview that in future his returns were likely to come not from share prices going up but from dividends. Value fund managers I spoke to this week were confident that they were already on the way back, but Einhorn's points do ring true. It may sound irrational for investors to turn their backs on cheap stocks, but, as John Maynard Keynes said, the market can remain irrational longer than you can remain solvent.

It is a debate with special relevance to the soul-searching over the decline of the London market. It is stuffed with companies that fit most definitions of value stocks. Grand plans to force more money into the market, such as the proposal from Sir Nicholas Lyons, the lord mayor of London, for a "future fund" filled from pension fund coffers, may be premature. Better, perhaps, to cross your fingers and wait for the tide of history to reassert itself.

Dominic O'Connell is business presenter for Times Radio



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Call to restore tourists' tax-free retail

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

The former chairman of the British Fashion Council has called on the government to restore the tax-free shopping scheme for overseas tourists.

Harold Tillman, who used to head Jaeger and Aquascutum, said businesses were "suffering on the back of this penalty, which is an own goal by the government". He said reinstating the benefit would increase revenue to the retail, tourism and hospitality sectors.

The scheme allowed visitors from non-European Union countries to recover the VAT on purchases and was scrapped in 2021. Luxury brands such as Burberry and Mulberry have warned that wealthy tourists are travelling to cities such as Paris instead of London to make purchases. High street retailers such as Marks & Spencer, Moss Bros and Fenwick have said the decision to scrap the benefit is also hurting them.

"Businesses have suffered so many difficulties trading with Europe since Brexit and then we go and give them something on a plate and hand them all our tourist business by imposing this tax," Tillman, 77, now a small businesses adviser, said. "I'm almost speechless when I say, 'Who thought it up? Who did the sums? And who calculated that we'd benefit from removing it?'"



Harold Tillman says firms have been badly affected

A report by Oxford Economics, commissioned by the Association of International Retail, concluded that rather than costing £2 billion a year, as the Treasury had estimated, reinstating tax-free shopping would result in a net gain in taxes of about £350 million each year.

Nigel Huddleston, the trade minister, said Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, would consider the issue.

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Atelier



PwC rocked by

Bernard Lagan Sydney

A scandal that has engulfed PwC in Australia deepened yesterday after a partner in the Big Four accountancy firm was placed under investigation by federal police amid allegations that he had shared confidential information about the government's tax policy.

Peter Collins, PwC Australia's former head of international tax, is accused of using highly confidential material that the Australian government had supplied to him to help to design laws to tax multinational companies more effectively.

A government document showed numerous senior PwC partners also had known about the circulation of the information. Australia's Tax Practitioners Board terminated Collins' registration as a tax agent for two years for breaching a confidentiality order with the Treasury department.

"This is a grotesque betrayal of trust, of the Australian government and of our citizens," Clare O'Neil, Australia's home affairs minister, said of PwC yesterday.

Other consultancies have moved to distance themselves from the turmoil surrounding PwC, with KPMG this week telling staff in an email that they could "'no longer sit by and watch our profession be tarnished by the unethical actions of a few".

The laws Collins helped to shape were intended to clamp down on a problem that was draining tax revenues. According to the Australian Financial Review, multinationals were using complex tax schemes with names like the Double Irish (pioneered by PwC Ireland), the Triple Dip and Debt Dumping and interest and royalty structures set up by PwC Luxembourg. They allowed global companies to avoid paying tax where they made their money by routing it through lower-tax countries.

Since December 2013, Collins had been part of a trusted group of outside experts helping Australia to draft new anti-avoidance tax laws. Collins, who had long experience with efforts to help multinationals to avoid tax — including the huge loans that energy companies such as Chevron had loaded on to their Australian operation to reduce taxable income — had signed strict confidentiality agreements with the Treasury, which warned that breaches risked action under the Crimes Act.

The scandal, which led to Tom Seymour stepping down as the boss of PwC's Australia business this month, has resulted in the firm yesterday removing dozens of staff who knew about the scheme from working on its existing Australian government contracts.

The government has moved to effectively block PwC, which has handled more than $500 million in federal government contracts in the past two years, from receiving new work.

MPs in Canberra stepped up calls for redactions to be lifted on a cache of internal PwC emails in the government's possession so that Australian and international PwC partners who shared the inside information could be named. Ministers and department heads attacked PwC in parliamentary hearings. The firm's ability to be trusted with confidential information was repeatedly questioned as Steven Kennedy, the Treasury secretary, said federal police had been called in.

A PwC spokesman said that the firm would co-operate fully with any investigations. Its international chiefs have rushed to Australia to try to contain the

SAEED KHAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



‘betrayal of Australia’



Tom Seymour, boss of PwC’s Australia business, quit after Deborah O’Neill, a Labor senator, secured the release of emails showing how the firm broke confidentiality rules to advise clients on how to avoid tax laws that it helped create



damage. They are said to include Carol Stubbings, the London-based head of PwC’s global legal and tax operation, amid revelations that 148 pages of damning emails sent between PwC colleagues about the scheme include participants from PwC’s offices in Britain, the United States, the Netherlands, Singapore and Ireland.

To understand the sense of betrayal in Canberra, it is necessary to go back to a morning in parliament in 2015. Seymour and Collins gave evidence to a parliamentary inquiry into tax avoidance, where the former said none of his firm’s 5,000 employees had acted improperly: “I have the utmost faith in the ethical standards of the people we employ. I certainly would be shocked and hugely disappointed if anyone in our firm is breaching laws.”

What Seymour did not say was that by then PwC’s tax partners were at least a year into a top-secret project aimed at enabling multinational companies to sidestep looming new corporate tax laws that PwC was helping to design.

The deception came to light after Deborah O’Neill, a Labor Party senator and former high school teacher, used a parliamentary question to force a small government agency that regulates tax practitioners to make public PwC’s internal emails.

They were devastating. They showed that Collins had broken the confidentiality agreement and had been sharing secret government documents, decisions and planning for the new tax laws with PwC partners in Australia, Britain, America and Ireland. They showed how he had tried to keep the source of his inside knowledge disguised, urging colleagues to be opaque about the information’s origins. His admonitions included “For your eyes only” and “please don’t circulate this”.

Nevertheless, his colleagues had pressed him for more details, even calling it “leveraging Peter Collins”, the emails showed. The confidential information was shared among 53 recipients, all of whose names have been redacted. The emails also showed that PwC had earned millions of dollars after advising 14 multinational clients how they could sidestep the laws.

The scandal has led to widespread mockery of the Big Four firm’s slogan “Building trust for today and tomorrow”. What is more worrying for the group is the potential loss of millions of dollars in future business and the worldwide damage to its brandand reputation.

Poor form means Ocado faces relegation from the FTSE 100

Jessica Newman

Ocado is set to be ejected from London’s leading share index next week after soaring losses prompted a sharp fall in its share price.

The stock market value of the Hertfordshire-based online grocer has more than halved in the past 12 months and its share price has dropped by more than a quarter in recent months.

Inflationary pressures contributed to Ocado’s losses ballooning to more than £500 million last year, while its retail business, run as a joint venture with Marks & Spencer, recorded an annual underlying loss of £4 million.

It is a remarkable turnaround in fortunes for Ocado, a “lockdown winner” that hit a market value of more than £21 billion in 2020 as it benefited from people shifting to online shopping during the pandemic. The company is now worth less than £4 billion. The fall in Ocado, which has long divided opinion in the City, means it could exit the FTSE 100 and be demoted into the FTSE 250 after FTSE Russell, the index provider and a subsidiary of the London Stock Exchange Group, reviews constituents next week.

Ocado, run by Tim Steiner, entered the FTSE 100 for the first time in 2018 after it struck its first significant international partnership with Kroger, the American grocer, that sent its shares to record highs.

The company set to be promoted to the top tier index and replace Ocado is IMI, the specialist engineer.

The changes are reputationally important, with promotion to the FTSE 100 giving companies an enhanced status, and also affect share prices, as many funds track the indices. The formal quarterly review will take place next week, using data after the market closes on May 30. The confirmed changes will be announced after the market closes the following day.

Capita, Britain’s largest outsourcing group, and Empiric Student Property, the student landlord, are set to win promotion to the FTSE 250. Tyman, one of London’s listed builders’ merchants, ME Group International, the photo booth operator, and Gore Street Energy Storage Fund, the battery developer, are also likely to be moved up to the mid-cap index.

A trio of energy companies are due to be demoted from the FTSE 250 — Capricorn Energy, the oil company; Tullow Oil, which was due to merge with Capricorn last year before a shareholder backlash; and Hunting, the energy services group.



Bear takes bite out of Darktrace with questions about its growth



Jessica Newman ***Market report***

It was a dark day for Darktrace as the formerly high-flying cybersecurity specialist faced questions about whether it could handle its competition, doubts that in turn hit its shares, making it the steepest faller on the mid-cap FTSE 250.

While analysts at Bank of America acknowledge that Darktrace has generated strong revenue growth over the years, Victor Cheng, its distinctly bearish analyst, expects growth to "significantly decelerate". Why? For one thing, he anticipates much stronger competition in the next 12 months, as well as a weaker economic backdrop that will put "significant pressure" on new contract wins.

"In a weak macro environment, customers are often likely to buy additional solutions from existing providers than from new ones," Cheng said, as he started coverage of the company with an "underperform" recommendation. The market heeded the bank's concerns and Darktrace's shares fell sharply by 32p, or 11 per cent, to 260p.

Miners boosted the FTSE 100, which rose by 56.33 points, or 0.7 per cent, to 7,627.20. However, the sell-off in previous days meant the index still suffered its biggest weekly decline in more than two months, losing 129.67 points, or 1.7 per cent. The FTSE 250 slipped another 46.66 points, or 0.3 per cent, to 18,974.09 on the day, taking its weekly loss to 495 points, or 2.6 per cent.

Dollar weakness fired up metals prices, which in turn helped **Antofagasta** to gain 39½p, or 2.9 per cent, to £13.89½ and **Anglo American** to rise by 51½p, or 2.3 per cent, to £23.18½. **Rio Tinto** jumped 167p, or 3.5 per cent, to £49.25 on the back of an upgrade from Morgan Stanley.

AstraZeneca advanced 142p, or 1.2 per cent, to £117.84 after the medicines group said a combination of its cancer drugs, when added to chemotherapy, had shown positive results in a late-stage trial in patients with advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer.

The sharp rise in bond yields put pressure on rate-sensitive housebuilders and commercial property stocks. **Land Securities**, which owns the Bluewater shopping centre in Kent, dipped 15½p, or 2.5 per cent, to 599p; **British Land** lost 6¾p, or 1.9 per cent, to 345¾p; and **Taylor Wimpey** gave up 1¾p, or 1.5 per cent, to 115¾p.

Hutchmed was given a lift as investors celebrated the Chinese biotechnology player being granted a priority review by the US Food and Drug Administration for fruquintinib, its treatment for metastatic colorectal cancer. The move helped Hutchmed, one of the biggest companies on Aim, to rise by 7½p, or 3.7 per cent, to 213p.

Shares in **Kin + Carta** flopped 6½p, or 9 per cent, to 65p, their lowest level since September 2020, after the technology consultancy said a reluctance from clients to commit to new contracts had forced it to revise its full-year outlook. The company, which advises on using technology to make businesses more efficient, said that while its net revenues were growing quarter-by-quarter, "it is not as strong as we had expected".

Wall Street report

Reports of a deal to raise the debt ceiling between the White House and senior Republicans on Capitol Hill lifted the Dow Jones industrial average by 328.69 points, 1 per cent, to 33,093.34, but the index still suffered a weekly fall of 1 per cent.

Profits hit by higher costs at IntegraFin

Higher staff costs and dwindling client wins took the shine off results from IntegraFin, the investment platform for clients of financial advisers. Underlying profits fell by 9 per cent to £29.4 million in the six months to March 31. Staff costs rose by 11 per cent to £25.5 million. Net client inflows of £1.6 billion were down from £2.7 billion last time. Client numbers on its Transact platform were up by more than 9,000 to a record 228,000. Average daily funds under direction fell by 1 per cent to £52.6 billion. Income from its £184 million cash grew from £100,000 last time to £2.2 million, thanks to rising interest rates. The company that hailed what it called a resilient performance, given the challenging backdrop for consumers and businesses, and it held the interim dividend at 3.2p. The shares fell 5 per cent, or 13¾p, to 263p.

Purplebricks leaps amid takeover 'battle'

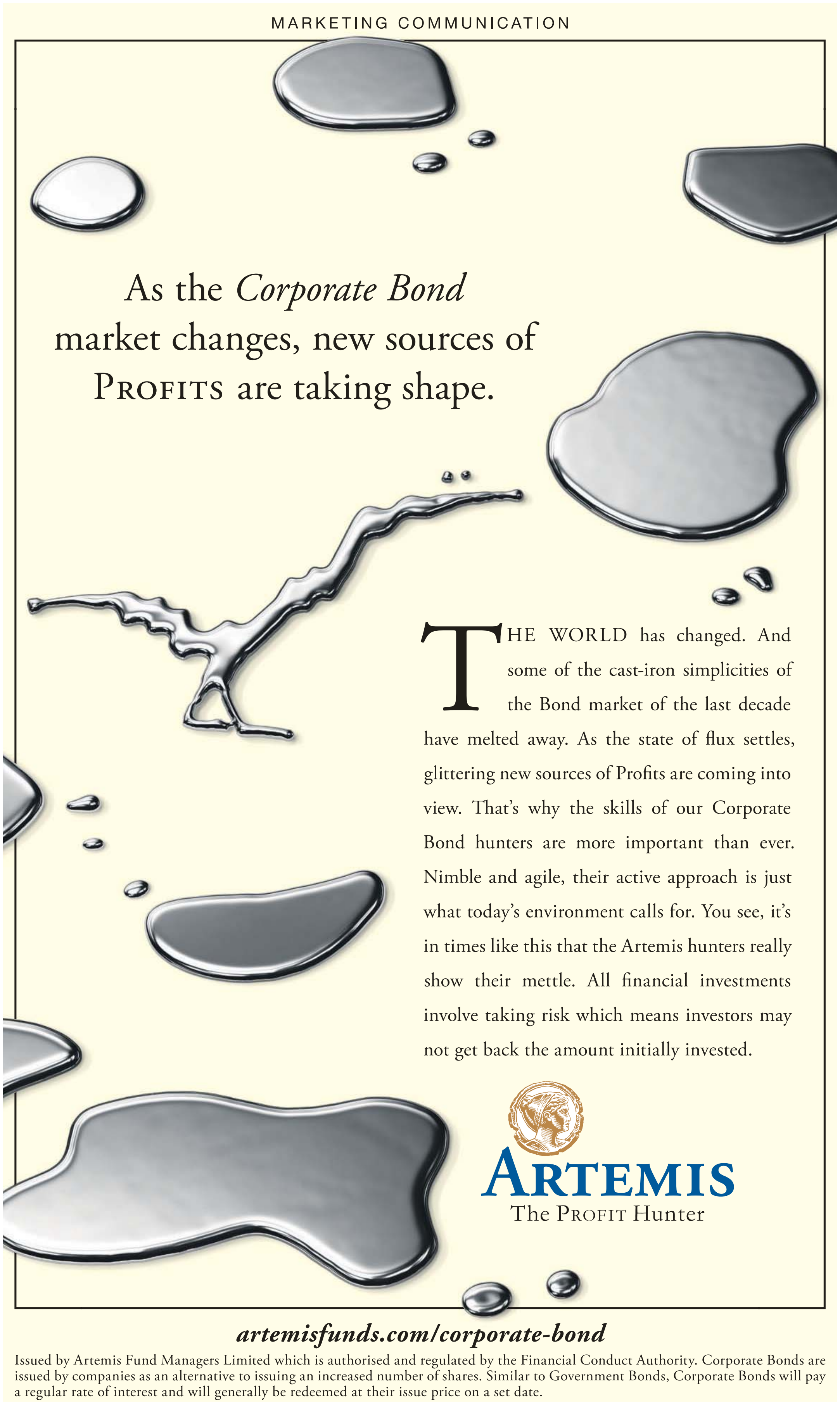
An unlikely bidding war has prompted a leap in the share price of Purplebricks of almost 40 per cent. Lecram Holdings, which holds a 5 per cent stake in the beleaguered online property portal, tabled an indicative 0.5p-a-share offer that values the Aim-listed company at £153 million. It came after the board last week agreed to support a takeover by its Strike, a smaller rival backed by Sir Charles Dunstone, the Carphone Warehouse founder, which offered to pay £1 for the business and to assume most of its liabilities, leaving about £2 million to be returned to shareholders. Purplebricks said Lecram's bid did not reflect an improvement and that it would continue to recommend that shareholders vote in favour of Strike's offer at a general meeting. Purplebricks' shares closed up 0.19p, or 39.2 per cent, at 0.66p.

Meta vows not to use other firms' ad data

Meta Platforms has promised not to use data from adverts placed by other businesses on its Facebook social media site to compete against them after the competition watchdog flagged concerns. The Competition and Markets Authority said it was minded to accept the commitments, which include advertisers being able to opt out of allowing their data to be used to improve the Facebook Marketplace classified ads platform. Michael Grenfell, the regulator's executive director of enforcement, said: "Reducing the risk of Meta unfairly exploiting the data of businesses who advertise on its platform for its own competitive advantage could help many UK businesses who advertise there." A consultation on Meta's proposals closes on June 26. Meta is the largest supplier of digital display adverts in the UK, earning up to £5 billion in 2021.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Tullow Oil Higher oil prices	4.6%
Rio Tinto Positive broker comment from Morgan Stanley	3.5%
JP Morgan American Investment Trust Tracks Wall Street higher	1.9%
Auto Trader Gains ahead of next week's annual results	1.9%
AstraZeneca Drug combination shows positive results in cancer trial	1.2%
Taylor Wimpey Higher interest rate expectations weigh on housebuilders	-1.5%
Land Securities Victim of the sharp rise on bond yields	-2.5%
Asos Falls after fundraising	-2.9%
IntegraFin Drop in half-year profits	-5%
Darktrace Bank of America starts coverage with "underperform" rating	-11%



Armed with a catapult, the executive aiming to launch advanced industries

Katherine Bennett has a varied background that she is bringing to a key role for Britain, reports **Robert Lea**

Some events in your working life can leave their mark, scar even. Being British, we whistle up a euphemism and call them character-building. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger. All that stuff.

For the past two years, Katherine Bennett has been chief executive of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult. Co-funded by the taxpayer, it is a research and development network employing 3,500 people nationwide, making it one of the largest industrial concerns in the country — a bit of an irony, given that its goal is to find the cutting-edge, digital, autonomous production technologies to replace the manual workforce.

Bennett's role makes her both advocate and ambassador for British manufacturing. And she brings to the job close-hand experience of two of the great themes in recent years: the decline of the British automotive sector and the shock of Brexit.

As a public relations professional, in 1996 Bennett, then in her twenties, was hired to head government affairs at Vauxhall Motors. She joined the Luton-based carmaker after some fun years in PR where the work was getting steadily more serious, from working on the 1991 Rugby World Cup to lobbying against the introduction of the National Lottery on behalf of the pools companies to working on the privatisation of the nation's nuclear power stations into what became British Energy.

Back then, Vauxhall was one of Britain's biggest automotive forces. The opportunities at the company took her to the Detroit headquarters of General Motors, its parent. After the secondment, she came back to the UK at the time of Cool Britannia and the halcyon days of Tony Blair's first term.

It was 2000, but not all was well in industrial Britain. Within weeks of her return, GM dropped a bombshell: its chronically lossmaking European operations needed to have at least one fewer factory. After nearly a century of making cars and latterly the home of the Vauxhall Vectra, the car factory in Luton was to close with the loss of 2,000 jobs.

"I'd developed really good relations with the local authorities, the local MPs, community groups and the trade unions," Bennett recalls. "Now we had the workforce marching down the road from the factory to head office. I'd be in a room, the public face and sole representative of Vauxhall, explaining why this company from Detroit was closing their factory, with all these people shouting at me. It was very difficult. I learnt a lot about how tough corporate life could be."

She admits now that she took it all too personally. "That was when I really grew up in business. You think it is your fault, all on your shoulders. I had to stop and tell myself, 'This is your job.' You have to be able to compartmentalise, otherwise you'd go mad."

After the factory closed, Bennett moved on to what became Airbus UK, the British end of the Franco-German aerospace powerhouse, employing more than 10,000 people and making wings for all the group's aircraft. A decade followed of behind-the-scenes governmental lobbying in Westminster and Brussels — and then she was more thrown into the public eye once more. With the Brexit referendum on the horizon, Airbus, with all that it had riding on it, decided to take the lead on behalf of industrial Britain to tell the country that, in its humble opinion, leaving the European Union was a shocking idea.

"It was all very tricky trying to retain relationships with parties on both sides of the argument, but Tom Enders [the group chief executive at that time] was strident about it, that it was important to front up and that a Brit should do it. It was a difficult time emotionally. I had to get out my detachment suitcase again."

By 2021 she had been with Airbus more than 16 years and, after a year of pandemic lockdowns, decided to take up the offer of chief executive of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult. Created by Lord Mandelson when he was Labour business secretary and embraced by his successor Sir Vince Cable during the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition, the catapults are an attempt to replicate Germany's network of 76 Fraunhofer research, technology and innovation institutes. Britain now has nine catapults covering several sectors employing more than 5,000 people. The largest of them by some way is the HVMC, which has seven technology centres around the country operating on 25 sites and a 3,500-strong workforce.

It receives £149 million a year of taxpayers' money and its role is to bring together ingenious academic ideas in want of an application with engineers and manufacturers with problems in search of a solution. Its goal is to catapult businesses and projects over the "valley of death" of operational frustrations and potential failure and on to commercialisation and industrialisation.

They have been described as sandpits for academics and engineers in which to play or, more seriously, to exchange and gain experience and expertise. Many companies that, for example, have embraced additive, 3D-printing manufacturing have learnt much from the catapult's machines, processes and people.

Its centres are at the National Manufacturing Institute Scotland at the University of Strathclyde; the Centre for Process Innovation in northeast England, based on the old ICI research and development operations; the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre in Rotherham and its sibling nuclear engineering facility; the Manufacturing Technology Centre north of Coventry; the Warwick Manufacturing Group; and the National Composites Centre in Bristol. A new, eighth centre, could open soon in Belfast.

As well as acting as advocate and ambassador for high-value manufacturing, Bennett has other roles. Operationally, she is the conductor — or "the octopus" — sitting at the centre, co-ordinating the innovation centres, making sure they all work together, neither competing nor duplicating. She is also the "stone-in-the-shoe", challenging the assumptions of the male-dominated engineering fraternity and acting as "their conscience".

Quite how the High Value Manufacturing Catapult can be judged a success is a tricky question. Bennett cites the 22,000 companies the catapult has helped over the past dozen years on 5,000 R&D projects.

But why, then, is Britain a country where manufacturing has diminished to only 10 per cent of the economy, where we have tumbled to ninth in the global manufacturing league, are way behind in the battery electric car revolution and have failed to bring large-scale wind farm manufacturing to these shores?

Bennett concedes that globalisation and the offshoring of manufacturing has not been Britain's friend, nor have the "impacts, confusion and lack of certainty" around Brexit. "There are questions around supply chains and whether we have the right resources and the right skills." Of the missed opportunities, she asks: "Did the government have enough foresight? Did they pull the right levers? Being in the EU meant there were limitations about how much we could impose on companies in terms of domestic investment."

And yet every small innovative business that says it has never heard of the catapults is, in itself, a small failure. "The role of our team is to get the word out. The innovation opportunities and the support that government offers are not that clear. That is something the government is very aware of."

LUCY YOUNG FOR THE TIMES



Katherine Bennett, as chief executive of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult, is overseeing Britain's efforts to combine ingenious academic ideas with problem-solving engineering and manufacturing



Q&A

Who is your mentor?
Tony Spalding, my former boss at Vauxhall Motors

What was the most important event in your working life?
The closure of Vauxhall's Luton car factory — very challenging for so many reasons and I learnt so much

What does leadership mean to you?
Treat all people with respect, learn from mistakes, ask when you don't understand and throw talented people into the deep end but let them know you are there with a life jacket

Does money motivate you?
As long as I have money to pay the bills, to be generous to the people I care about and to be prepared for what life throws at me, then I don't believe that I am motivated by money

What is your favourite television programme?
At the moment it's *Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr*, above right

How do you relax?
Playing the piano or singing

CV

Age: 55
Education: combined arts, history and politics, University of Leicester
Career: 1990: account manager, Hill+Knowlton Strategies; **1995:** public affairs adviser, City of London Corporation; **1996:** head of government affairs, Vauxhall Motors; **2004-21:** head of UK government affairs, Airbus, later senior vice-president; **2021:** chief executive, High Value Manufacturing Catapult

Money

Best buys

Data supplied by Moneyfacts Best Buy

Savings

Easy access (without introductory bonus)

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Hanley Economic BS	via branch	Branch Saver	£1,000	4.25%
Yorkshire Building Society	via website	Online Rainy Day 2	£1	3.85%
Chip	via app	Instant Access	£1	3.82%
Shawbrook Bank	via website	Easy Access 35	£1,000	3.75%
Chorley Building Society	via website	Easy Access Saver	£500	3.7%

Long-term fixed rates

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Tandem Bank	via app	Fixed Saver (5 yr)	£1	5% F
Atom Bank	via app	Fixed Saver (5 yr)	£50	5% F
Isbank	via website	Raisin UK Deposit (4 yr)	£1,000	5% F
Isbank	via website	Raisin UK Deposit (5 yr)	£1,000	5% F
Isbank	via website	Raisin UK Deposit (7 yr)	£1,000	5% F

Easy access cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Cynergy Bank	via website	Online Isa (37)	£1	3.62%
Yorkshire Building Society	via website	Limited e-Isa	£1	3.6%
Gatehouse Bank A	via website	Easy Access	£1	3.55%
Chorley Building Society	via website	Easy Access (3 withdrawals)	£1	3.55%
Leeds BS	via website	Ltd Online Isa (60)	£1,000	3.55%

Fixed cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Virgin Money	via website	Fixed E-Isa 580 (24.5.26)	£1	4.41% F
Shawbrook Bank	via website	Fixed Isa 45 (3 yr)	£1,000	4.37% F
Secure Trust Bank	via website	Fixed Isa (25.6.26)	£1,000	4.35% F
Aldermore	via website	Fixed Isa (3 yr)	£1,000	4.3% F
Hampshire Trust Bank	via website	Isa Bond (6) (3 yr)	£1	4.25% F

Lifetime cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Moneybox	via website	Cash Lifetime Isa	£1	3.5% B
Beehive Money	via website	Homebuyer Lifetime Isa	£1	3%
Beehive Money	via website	Retirement Lifetime Isa	£1	3%
Skipton BS	via website	Online Lifetime Isa 4	£1	2.55%
Paragon Bank	via website	Cash Lifetime Isa - 3	£1	2.5%

Regular savings accounts

Provider	Contact	Account	Min Mntly	AER
NatWest	via website	Digital Regular Saver	£1	6.17% V
Royal Bank of Scotland	via website	Digital Regular Saver	£1	6.17% V
Bank of Scotland	via website	Monthly Saver	£25	5.5% F
Halifax	via website	Regular Saver	£25	5.5% F
Nationwide BS	via website	Start to Save 2	£0	5.25% V

Pension annuities

Single life

Provider	Contact	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life	0345 300 3199	£2,897.76	£3,226.92	£3,656.28
Legal & General	0345 765 4465	£2,912.40	£3,210.36	£3,613.08
Aviva	0800 015 5064	£2,748.61	£3,102.54	£3,534.49
Just	0345 302 2287	£2,646.00	£3,014.40	£3,376.08

Joint life

Provider	Contact	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Canada Life	0345 300 3199	£2,582.04	£2,778.24	£3,077.28
Legal & General	0345 765 4465	£2,508.48	£2,754.96	£3,050.16
Aviva	0800 015 5064	£2,325.93	£2,525.67	£2,789.84
Just	0345 302 2287	£2,305.44	£2,508.12	£2,717.64

Based on a pension pot of £50,000

Mortgages

First-time buyer mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
Leeds BS	0345 045 4049	5.29%F	to 30.9.25	95%	£999	To 30.9.25
Coventry BS	0800 121 8899	5.61%F	to 31.10.25	95%	-	To 31.10.25
West Brom BS	0800 298 0008	5.29%F	to 31.8.26	95%	£499	To 31.8.26
Hanley Economic BS	01782 255000	4.89%F	to 31.7.28	95%	-	To 31.7.28
Cumberland BS	01228 403141	4.93%F	to 1.7.28	95%	-	To 1.7.28

Remortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
first direct	0800 482448	4.39% F	for 2 years	60%	£490	1st 2 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.44% F	for 2 years	75%	£490	1st 2 yrs
HSBC	0808 2566876	4.34% F	to 31.8.26	75%	£999	To 31.8.26
first direct	0800 482448	4.03% F	for 5 years	60%	£490	1st 5 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.19% F	for 5 years	80%	£490	1st 5 yrs

Short-term fixed-rate mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
first direct	0800 482448	4.39%	for 2 years	60%	£490	1st 2 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.44%	for 2 years	75%	£490	1st 2 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.89%	for 2 years	90%	£490	1st 2 yrs
HSBC	0808 2566876	4.39%	to 31.8.26	75%	£999	To 31.8.26
HSBC	0808 2566876	4.79%	to 31.8.26	90%	£999	To 31.8.26

Long-term fixed-rate mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
first direct	0800 482448	4.03%	for 5 years	60%	£490	1st 5 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.09%	for 5 years	75%	£490	1st 5 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.29%	for 5 years	85%	£490	1st 5 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.44%	for 5 years	90%	£490	1st 5 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.09%	for 10 years	75%	£490	1st 10 yrs

Discounted variable-rate mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
Leek Building Society	0808 169 6680	4.35%	for 2 years	80%	£995	1st 2 yrs
Principality BS	0330 333 4002	4.6%	to 31.8.25	85%	-	to 31.8.25
Newbury BS	01635 555777	4.24%	for 3 years	75%	£600	1st 3 yrs
Tipton & Coseley BS	0800 833853	4.74%	to 31.7.26	90%	£999	To 31.7.26
Chorley BS	01257 235001	4.8%	for 5 years	90%	£999	1st 5 yrs

Buy-to-let mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
Loughborough BS	01509 631950	4.69% D	for 2 years	80%	-	1st 2 yrs
Principality BS	0330 333 4002	4.55% D	to 31.8.25	60%	-	To 31.8.25
NatWest	0800 587 6599	4.81% F	to 30.9.25	75%	£995	To 30.9.25
Principality BS	0330 333 4002	4.28% F	to 31.8.28	60%	£1,395	To 31.8.28
HSBC	0800 256 6876	4.41% F	to 31.8.28	75%	£1,999	To 31.8.28

The selections above are based on a combination of initial rate, fee and incentive available

National Savings & investments

Accounts and bonds

	Notice or Term	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Green Savings Bonds 4	3 Yr Bnd	£100	4.2% F	Yearly
Income Bonds	None	£500	2.89% V	Monthly
Direct Saver	None	£1	2.85% V	Yearly

Tax-free products

	Notice or Term	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Junior Isa	Age 18	£1	3.4%	Yearly
Direct Isa	None	£1	2.4%	Yearly

Personal loans

Fixed monthly repayment on £10,000 for 5 years

Provider	Contact	Rep APR	Amount per month	Total repaid
M&S Bank	via website	4.9%	£187.76	£11,265.60
AA	via website	5%	£188.20	£11,292
Bank of Ireland UK	via website	5%	£188.20	£11,292
Post Office Money	via website	5%	£188.20	£11,292

Borrowing rates and availability of products are subject to credit rating

Credit cards

Introductory rate for balance transfers

Provider	Contact	Product name	Transfer	Bal trans fee	Purch APR
Virgin Money	0800 389 2875	Balance Transfer CC MC	0% 1st 31 mths	3.5%	23.9%
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Plat Bal Transfer Visa	0% 1st 30 mths	2.98%	23.9%
NatWest	0345 788 8444	Longer Bal Transfer MC	0% 1st 30 mths	2.99%	23.9%
RBS	0345 724 2424	Longer Bal Trans MC	0% 1st 30 mths	2.99%	23.9%
Tesco Bank	0345 300 4278	C'card CC Bal Trans MC	0% 1st 30 mths	3.49%	22.9%

Introductory rate for purchases

Provider	Contact	Product name	Introductory Term	Purch APR
NatWest	0345 788 8444	Purchase & Bal Trans MC	0% 1st 23 mths	23.9%
RBS	0345 724 2424	Purchase & Bal Trans MC	0% 1st 23 mths	23.9%
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Plat All-Rounder Visa	0% 1st 22 mths	23.9%
HSBC	0345 7404 404	Purchase Plus CC Visa	0% 1st 20 mths	23.9%
M&S Bank	0800 997 996	Shopping Plus Offer MC	0% 1st 18 mths	23.9%

Cashback credit card

Provider	Contact	Product name	Purchase APR	Cashback
American Express	0800 917 8047	Platinum Cashback	35% Intro	0.75% - 1.25% standard 5%/3mth (max £125)
American Express	0800 917 8047	Plat Cashback Everyday	29.4% Intro	0.5% - 1% standard 5%/3mth (max £100)
Halifax	0345 944 4555	Cashback CC MC	22.9%	Standard 0.25% - 0.5% on spend over £1 per year
Lloyds Bank	0345 602 1997	Cashback CC MC	22.9%	Standard 0.25% - 0.5% on spend over £1 per year
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Rewards Visa	25.9%	Standard 0.25% on spend over £1 per year

Borrowing rates and products are subject to credit rating. Terms apply to all cashback

Current accounts

Credit interest

Provider	Contact	Account name	Account Fee	AER
Halifax	0345 720 3040	Reward Current Account	None	£5 pm C
TSB	0345 975 8758	Spend & Save Plus	£3pm	£5 pm
Nationwide BS	0800 30 20 10	FlexDirect	None	5% B
Kroo Bank Ltd	kroo.com	Current Account	None	3.33%
Virgin Money	0800 678 3654	M Plus Account	None	2.02%

Arranged overdrafts

Provider	Contact	Account name	Account Fee	EAR	Usage Fee
Starling Bank	via website	Current Account	None	15%	£0
first direct	0345 600 2424	1st Account	None	39.9%	£250
Virgin Money	0800 678 3654	M Plus Account	None	19.9%	£0
Lloyds Bank	0800 015 4000	Club Lloyds	£3pm	27.5%	£50
TSB	0345 975 8758	Spend & Save Plus	£3pm	39.9%	£100

Current account interest rates paid up to a specified level, terms may apply.

A = Provider operates under Islamic finance principles, rate shown is expected profit rate.
B = Introductory rate. C = Paid net of income tax. D = Discounted variable rate.
F = Fixed rate. V = Variable rate. All savings rates AER variable unless stated otherwise.
All rates and terms subject to change. No liability can be accepted for loss arising from use of this information. Visit Moneyfactscompare.co.uk for full details.

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Max out those tax breaks to boost your income
Page 62-63



Money

‘Paul died, then I had to fight for the payout’

Bereaved families and pension holders are still suffering from the customer service issues at Scottish Widows, reports **Lily Russell-Jones**

Paul Sutton was diagnosed with cancer in January and died within four weeks. It took almost three times as long for his wife, Sandra James, to get a £40,000 life insurance payout from Scottish Widows.

James, 56, had to use £6,000 from her savings to pay for the funeral. “It cleared me out and left me worried that I would not get the money back. It just made it all harder,” she said.

Scottish Widows, which was started in 1815 to take care of women and children who lost men in the Napoleonic Wars, offers life insurance, pensions and investment products to six million customers. It has been inundated with complaints about delays, mistakes and poor customer service for months.

In February the firm said that it had been working through a backlog of 6,000 complaints since January and that it would hire more staff. Many of the complaints were from customers unable to withdraw their own money.

Scottish Widows said that the queue would be cleared by the end of March and now claims that it is “getting back to normal”. It said that the issues were due to a “number of factors including an increasingly competitive job market”.

James, from Bristol, is one of many customers who say they are abandoning the company. “I cancelled my own life insurance policy. I wouldn’t want anyone to go through what I have trying to get the money,” she said.

For five years James and Sutton, who was 72, paid £68 a month to Scottish Widows. James told the company within a week of Sutton’s death in February and sent his death certificate.

It took almost four weeks to send her the forms she needed to make a claim, despite several phone calls. Last month Scottish Widows asked to see the medical records held by Sutton’s GP to prove that her husband had learnt that he had cancer only after taking out the policy. James was then asked to send a copy of his will.

Then the company said that it would make the payment only if Sutton’s son-in-law authorised it because he was an executor of the will.

James finally got her payout this week. “I had to really work for it,” she said. “I had to go through everything repeatedly with customer service, which was horrible. I had no contact — I had to do all the chasing. You should not have to fight like that for your money when you have been bereaved.”

Scottish Widows received almost 11,900 customer complaints in the second half of last year. So far this year 587 customer complaints have been escalated to the Financial Ombudsman Service, which resolves customer disputes with financial services companies and can award compensation. Last year it had 770 complaints about Scottish Widows.

“It’s unacceptable that customers are getting poor service, particularly on something as important as life insurance,” said Jenny Ross from the consumer group Which?.

Scottish Widows said: “We are sorry that Ms James was waiting for the policy to be paid out during what was already a difficult time. However, there has been no delay in supporting her request as we needed to receive her late husband’s medical report.”

It has taken Joanne Gibson, 51, almost a year to withdraw £77,000 from her Scottish Widows pension.

In April last year she moved her savings into a workplace scheme and had a letter from Scottish Widows in June confirming that the money had been sent but it never arrived.

“I have had sleepless nights over this,” said Gibson, who works for Essex police. “It went on for months. Scottish Widows did not know where the money was and nobody had an answer.”

> **I cancelled my own life cover. I wouldn’t want anyone else to go through what I had to**

Gibson estimates that she has called Scottish Widows about 50 times and spent 20 hours on the phone since the money went missing.

She complained to the Financial Ombudsman in February. A month later she had a call from Scottish Widows reassuring her that the money had been sent and offering £300 compensation.

“I rang my workplace pension scheme and it said it had still not been sent the money, so I turned down the compensation offer,” Gibson said.

In April the ombudsman said Scottish Widows had to transfer Gibson’s pension within four weeks and pay £500 compensation. She received the compensation payment, but her workplace pension only got a cheque for the money last week.

She is still waiting for an estimated £6,000 of compensation to make up for the loss her pension suffered from the delay.

Scottish Widows said: “We are taking the appropriate action to ensure she is not out of pocket.”

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If you want to complain about a financial services company, contact it directly. Give the company eight weeks to respond. If you do not get a “final response” by then or you are dissatisfied with the outcome, you have six months to take your complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

If the complaint is about a workplace pension scheme, you can escalate the dispute to the Pensions Ombudsman. It can, however, take months for disputes to be resolved.




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Money

Inside the Scottish Widows meltdown

The insurer has a huge complaints backlog, with some waiting months for payouts, says **Lily Russell-Jones**

Money

‘20 years paying in and now I’ll get nothing’

A scary life insurance letter left a loyal customer struggling for answers from Scottish Widows — and she’s not the only one, says **Lily Russell-Jones**

£49,000

Top: Sandra James and her husband, Paul, who died in February. Above: How Money reported the problems at Scottish Widows in February and March

Are you missing out on a free £2,000 a year for childcare?

Working families are not making the most of a £2,000 tax break.

Roughly 650,000 households used the government’s tax-free childcare scheme in the last tax year — 27 per cent more families than the year before, but way short of the estimated 1.3 million families who are eligible.

Experts say that the confusing system is putting many off claiming their free money. Parents that earn at least the equivalent of minimum wage for 16 hours a week and no more than £100,000 a year can get up to £2,000 a year for every child under 11. Families with a disabled child can claim up to the age of 16 and get a maximum of £4,000 a year.

You pay into an account and for every £8 you add, the government adds £2.

The average government payout per child last year was just £638.

Laura Suter from the wealth manager AJ Bell said: “For some parents the shortfall will be because their childcare costs aren’t high enough to claim the full amount, where they are using it for occasional holiday clubs or a few days at nursery. But for others it will be because they aren’t aware of the full amount, or they find the system too complicated and convoluted.”

The scheme cost the government £533 million in 2022-23, far short of the £1 billion forecast. Parents have to confirm their details every three months to use the scheme, in a process that Suter described as “onerous”. In March almost 45 per cent of open tax-free childcare accounts were not used to claim any support.

The tax-free scheme can also be used alongside the 30 hours of free care available to working parents of three and four-year-olds in England. This will be extended to include children from nine months by September 2025.

Staff shortages and rising food and energy prices have contributed to a shortage of affordable childcare. The average cost of full-time care for children under two is £285 a week — £14,000 a year, according to the charity Coram Family and Childcare.

Prices are expected to go up an average of 8 per cent this year, according to the Early Years Alliance.

Rachel Mortimer

More ways to get free money, pages 62-63

Money

I want a fund manager who puts their money where their mouth is

Holly Mead Deputy Money Editor

In Roman times, legend has it, engineers had to spend some time sleeping under the bridges they had designed — what better incentive to make sure the structures they built were safe?

Nassim Taleb offered this anecdote in his book *Skin in the Game* as an example of why we should be looking for fund managers who invest in their own fund. (The reference was removed in later editions as being of doubtful origin, but the point stands).

Here's another way to look at it: would you trust a chef who doesn't eat their own cooking?

There is much emphasis in the fund world on performance numbers and the biggest holdings in a portfolio — what are the fees, asset allocation and how much money is invested? These are all important questions, but not at the expense of this one: does the fund manager invest too?

Skin in the game, as it's called in the trade, is about the strongest indicator a manager can give that they believe in what they are doing.

"Skin in the game is a simple rule that's necessary for fairness and justice, and the ultimate BS-buster," Taleb wrote. "Never trust anyone who doesn't have skin in the game."

Yet there are no regulatory requirements that insist either that a manager must back their own fund or that they must disclose whether or not they invest. The annual report of an investment trust will show whether a manager holds more than 3 per cent of a fund's assets — but not smaller holdings. For funds that are not trusts, there is no such disclosure.

When a manager invests in their own fund, you are equals (well, almost) because when the fund profits, so do the both of you.

If a fund manager isn't invested and performance is poor, what does it matter? They will still get paid at the end of the month. They might even somehow wangle a performance fee, depending on the fund's objectives.

Researchers interviewed 69 senior people working in fund management in London, New York and Chicago this year. The academics said that they were particularly struck by how critical the interviewees were of the fund industry, and the number that preferred to invest in a simple tracker fund rather than their own.

"That people even said 'I wouldn't invest in my own fund' is truly remarkable," said Crawford Spence, a professor of accounting from King's College London.

A 2021 study by the investment group Investec found that there were only 77 investment trusts (of about 400) where the managers or management team had a personal investment in their fund of at least £1 million. These funds delivered on average a return of 77 per cent over five years, compared with an average of 66.4 per cent across all trusts.

The managers of the Scottish Mortgage trust had the biggest personal stake at £200 million and delivered a staggering return of 379 per cent over five years. Scottish Mortgage used to have a rule that directors must invest in the trust before being allowed a seat on the board, but this was removed.

Nick Train and Terry Smith are two other fund managers who are known for having skin in the game, and whose funds have consistently overperformed.

But while we know these managers invest in their own portfolio, they are not obliged to tell us that. In 2021, the Securities and Exchange Board of India said that fund managers and key employees should be invested in a scheme where they have oversight, according to Larissa Fernand of the data firm Morningstar. The amount they must invest is proportionate to the overall assets in the fund, and the money is locked in for three years.



> **Trusts where managers had a personal stake of £1m returned an average of 77% over five years**

Other regions do not stipulate so prescriptively that a manager must invest. However, in the US, New Zealand and China they must at least disclose whether or not they do.

I don't think managers should be forced to invest in their own funds, but it should be easy to find out whether they do or not.

There are legitimate reasons why a manager would not invest all their money in their fund. If they are in their thirties, for example, and run a cautious portfolio of government bonds, that is not the ideal place for their savings. Experts say that the younger you are, the more risk you can take.

But they could at least put a small proportion of their money in to show willing — few people invest in a portfolio that is 100 per cent equities; you need some diversification.

Perhaps a manager could also be excused if, say, they ran a fund that focused on oil stocks but held strong personal beliefs about the use of fossil fuels and preferred sustainable fund options. I wonder, though, if such a person would wind up running a commodities fund in the first place.

But it is the not knowing that is the real issue. Managers should be shouting from the rooftops if they invest. What better advert could they ever supply for their own fund?

And it would be easy for companies to include this information on a fund fact sheet — a simple tick or cross in a box to indicate whether the manager is invested, there for those who are interested to know.

This is just another way that the funds industry is unnecessarily opaque. Most managers reveal their full portfolio just once a year, asking investors to trust that they know what they're doing, and will stick to a strategy. Perhaps it would be easier to trust them if you knew that their interests were aligned with yours.

*@holly_mead_*

The big question

Should we stop buying rounds in the pub?

Yes



Alex Andrews, co-host of the podcast Over Two Cans

"It's your round!" has been a pub call for generations, but it's time that we retired this costly and often unfair ritual.

My friend Sam and I meet twice a month along a 200-yard stretch of high street in our hometown of Bromley, south east London. There lie five pubs, three of which we frequent on a strict rotational basis to plan upcoming episodes for our show Over Two Cans.

Our tipple choices vary greatly in both style and cost, so we never buy rounds. I would be £100 out of pocket each year if we did.

The Greyhound, a Wetherspoons, is our first stop. Sam opts for a premium IPA of whatever is pulling, costing him £3.80. I pick the cheapest beer on the menu, a Greene King IPA, for the genuinely bargain price of £1.79.

In contrast the Star & Garter next door has a 10 per cent triple IPA for the princely sum of £12. Sam sensibly chooses a half pint (£6). Save your gasps, he said it was worth the money. I stick to cask, this time at £4 a pint.

We end our session at the Barrel & Horn, going pint for pint at £6.50 each — finally agreeing on something.

Overall, three pints cost me £12.29, while Sam's two and a half pints were £16.30.

A £4.01 disparity is a manageable cost for a much-needed catch-up with a good mate. But how do we divide three rounds by two? Who gets the first and last round?

"Just remember for next time," you might say. No chance. "It will balance itself out over a year." It won't.

If my drinks were £4.01 cheaper every fortnight, that is £104.26 a year — or 58 pints of Wetherspoon's finest cask IPA.

How about we all just buy our own pints?

No



Martyn James, a consumer champion and commentator

I do not want to shock anyone reading this, but we British people are not very good at being honest about how we feel.

"Oh don't worry! Of course we'll get another round in," we cry in pubs across the land. The reality is that if you don't buy a round back, it will never, ever be forgotten.

If you shirk on a round you can be assured that your friends have muttered conspiratorially behind your back. Jokes about pterodactyls flying out of your wallet will abound. You will not be forgiven.

The simplest way to deal with this stark but accurate reality is to share the cost of getting a round in between you all. Financially, this makes a lot of sense because the politics of simply taking it in turns to buy a round can be complicated.

Some prefer to get in early because there are fewer to buy for. Others keep a crafty eye on how close to the bottom everyone's drinks are.

Fabulously, the tech gods have provided a plethora of apps that allow us to share the cost of rounds equally. Some will randomly select who goes to the bar next. Others will build a digital pot or kitty that you can split equally. Then the only thing you need to argue about is who actually goes to the bar.

If you don't want to get a round in, then there are usually two explanations. Firstly, you might not have any cash. This is a hard thing to admit, but your friends — if they are worth having — should know your situation and should aim for cheaper options, buy a few drinks on the sly for you or even front you some cash (don't ask for it back).

Of course, the other explanation is that you are cheap. Drinking together is a social act. If you want to be anti-social, then drink alone. If you can afford it, then you should be sharing a good time — and getting your round in.

IN THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW



FAME AND FORTUNE

I made £100k from Big Brother, but the taxman took most of it

PLUS

Done in 60 seconds: the speedy mortgage

'Hello, DWP? Please don't hang up again'

Callers trying to beat the deadline for topping up their pensions are being ignored and cut off, says **Ali Hussain**

Savers are struggling to plug gaps in their national insurance record to boost their state pension because government telephone lines keep cutting out.

Retired flight attendant Elizabeth Roberts from Ascot checked the government's online service and found a nine-year gap in her national insurance records that could cost her thousands of pounds in state pension.

The shortfall, which will cost her about £7,000 to make up, came about because she worked abroad for years for the airline Cathay Pacific.

Roberts, 57, has been cut off eight times when trying to contact the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to make top-up payments. She also wrote to the department but has had no response.

Her husband, Simon, 65, said: "We have repeatedly called only to hear a recorded message and then get cut off. The website does not allow you to calculate and pay online electronically.

"It does appear as though the DWP is trying to make it as difficult as possible to pay back the gaps in contributions."

Time is running out for Roberts to make the payments. Normally you can make up only six years of missed national insurance contributions but the window has been extended and until July 31 you can also top up contributions missed between April 6, 2006, and April 5, 2016.

The government caved in to pressure to extend this deadline from April 5 this year after the DWP phone lines became clogged up. The problem does not seem to have been resolved, though. Money called the DWP call centre on Wednesday at 10.15am. The line was answered by an automated message that warns that you may get cut off before an agent becomes available. It then promptly cut out. The call lasted less than a minute.

Filling in one year of contributions could boost your state pension by almost £303 a year — more than £6,000 over a 20-year retirement, not taking into account future rises in the state pension. It normally costs £17.45 to fill in a missing week of national insurance contributions based on today's figures, which means that it would cost £907.20 to make up a year's worth.

The full state pension is worth £203.85 a week (£10,600 a year) for anyone who reached state pension age since April 2016.

You need to have made 35 years of national insurance contributions to get the full state pension and have paid national insurance for ten years to get any state pension at all.

However, millions of people do not get the full state pension because of gaps in their national insurance contributions, which could have come about if they stopped work or were working in countries where contributions were not made.

In 2020 some 10.8 million people got the old state pension — 7.1 million of whom were paid the full amount. About 1.6 million people got the new state pension and 740,000 of these were paid the full amount.

Steve Webb from the consultancy Lane Clark and Peacock said: "Part of the challenge is that the rules on how time and contributions outside the UK affect state pensions are complex and vary from country to country. But people closer to home are also still having real problems.

"While it was welcome that the top-ups deadline was extended, far too many people are still having trouble getting through. The DWP needs to monitor call volumes and the number getting through and make sure there are enough trained people to answer questions before the deadline."

The DWP said: "The quickest and easiest way for people to get information about their state pension and national insurance record is online."


Simon and Elizabeth Roberts have been trying to top up her contributions

How to make top-ups

- Speak to the DWP before paying any money because in some cases you could pay for a missing year and your state pension may not go up at all because of the way the new state pension is worked out, and the different treatment of pre- and post-2016 contributions.
- Arrange to make top-ups through the Future Pension Centre (gov.uk/future-pension-centre) or, if you are outside the UK, the International Pension Centre (gov.uk/international-pension-centre).
- Call HMRC to get your 18-digit code to accompany your payment. This makes sure that the money will be allocated to your national insurance account and to the correct years.

£303
extra annual state pension you could get for topping up a year of national insurance

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Money

How maxing out all those tax

With the cost of living still soaring, it makes sense to get the most out of your salary, savings and investments, writes **Ali Hussain**

Did you know that you could save thousands of pounds a year just by making the most of your tax breaks?

"Some of the reliefs available to ordinary taxpayers can be very valuable, but it is easy to miss out on the full benefits, said Rachel McEleney from the accountancy firm Deloitte.

"For example, a parent who expects a pay rise to push them just above the £100,000 threshold would be forgiven for thinking that they need to cut their hours to keep their tax-free childcare, but they should look at paying extra pension contributions or charitable donations. In some cases the tax saving can be significantly more than the amount paid."

Here are the ways you can make the most of your earnings.

Tax-free childcare

Couples who both work at least 16 hours a week normally qualify for tax-free childcare. This means that, for parents of children aged less than 12, for every £8 they pay into an online childcare account, the government will add £2. The money can be used for after-school, breakfast and holiday clubs, childminders, nurseries and some sporting clubs.

The government top-up is capped at £2,000 per child per year (£4,000 if the child is disabled). The child must be 11 or under (or 16 or under for a disabled child).

A couple will not qualify if either expects to have adjusted net income exceeding £100,000 in the tax year. Adjusted net income is broadly your total taxable income from all sources minus reliefs (such as pension contributions and gift aid) but before deducting the £12,570 personal allowance, which is the amount you can earn each year before you pay any income tax.

Someone with two children who expects to earn £100,500 could make an additional £500 pension contribution or gift aid donation and still be eligible for the tax-free childcare scheme. Similarly someone with two young children who earns £104,000 could pay in an additional £333 a month (£4,000 a year) to their pension and still get the free £4,000 of childcare.

£4,000 free money



Working from home

You may be able to claim tax relief of £6 a week for household costs, such as phone calls or energy bills, if you have to work at home for all or part of the week. You cannot claim expenses that you would have used anyway as part of your everyday living expenses, for example your broadband, rent or mortgage.

You can only claim the relief if your job requires you to live far away from your office or your employer does not have an office. You cannot claim it if you choose to work from home.

You get tax relief based on the rate at which you pay tax. For example, if you are a 40 per cent higher-rate taxpayer and claim the £6 for a week, you will get a payment of £2.40 (40 per cent of £6). If you claim this for 46 weeks of the year you will get £110.40.

Your claim can go back four years if you have not claimed for those previous years, although the rate was £4 a week before April 6, 2020.

£110 free money



Uniform expenses

If your job requires a uniform that you need to clean yourself you can claim tax relief on what you spend, but the amount varies depending on your job.

For example, a pilot can claim tax relief based on a flat rate expense of £1,022. Ambulance staff claims are based on £185, while police community support staff claims are based on £140.

The amount of tax relief you get depends on your rate of income tax. A pilot paying higher-rate tax could get £408.80 (40 per cent of £1,022).

A list of the flat rates that apply to different jobs is available at gov.uk. If your job is not listed you can claim relief on the set sum of £60. You cannot claim tax relief for everyday clothing you wear for work (even if you must wear a certain design or colour) or if your employer provides a laundry service and you choose not to use it.

Gift aid

Gift aid provides income tax relief on cash gifts to UK registered charities. Every £8 that you donate is topped up £2 by the government (subject to certain conditions).

If you are a higher or additional-rate taxpayer, further relief can be claimed through a tax return. For example, if a higher-rate taxpayer donates £80, the government pays the charity £20 and the taxpayer can reclaim a further £20 via their tax return. The overall effect is that the charity gets £100 including the HMRC top-up at a net cost to the donor of £60. Like pension contributions, gift aid donations can reduce adjusted net income, so as well as helping good causes, they are useful for preserving child benefit (which you start to lose when one person in a household earns more than £50,000), tax-free childcare and the personal allowance (which you start to lose when you earn more than £100,000).

Lifetime Isa bonus

Adults living in the UK can save up to



breaks will boost your income

ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES







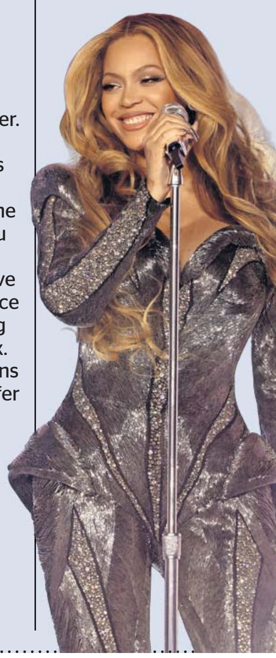
£110

Amount you could claim for working from home for 46 weeks a year

The tax break you get if you put a ring on it

If you follow Beyoncé's song rules and get married (put a ring on it) or have a civil partnership you could use the marriage tax allowance. This is available if neither spouse is a higher or additional-rate taxpayer. It works by allowing one spouse who earns less than the £12,570 personal allowance (the amount of income you can earn before you start paying tax) to give £1,260 of that allowance to their partner, saving them up to £252 in tax. Say your husband earns £10,000, he can transfer £1,260 of his personal allowance to you without losing any tax benefit himself and give you an allowance of £13,830 (assuming that you earn less than the higher income tax threshold of £50,270).

This will cut your tax bill by £252. Claims must be made within four years of the end of the tax year (so the 2019/20 tax year is the earliest year still open) and you must not have divorced in the meantime.



Someone claiming for this tax year and up to the maximum of four years' backdated payments, which were slightly lower in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 tax years, could get £1,256.

Spouses and civil partners can inherit one another's estates inheritance tax-free. They can also inherit tax (IHT) allowances, which allow you to pass on up to £325,000 of assets (£500,000 if the estate includes a main residence) tax-free. This means a couple can have a total IHT allowance of £1 million.

£20,000 into cash or stocks and shares or both each year. All income and gains within an Isa are tax-free, for life.

If you are between 18 and 40 you can also open a Lifetime Isa and save up to £4,000 a year, to which the government will add a 25 per cent bonus every year until you turn 50.

The £20,000 Isa limit applies to the total of all Isa savings, including the Lifetime Isa. But because the Lifetime Isa aims to help people save for a first home or for retirement after the age of 60, if you withdraw the money for any other reason you have to pay a 25 per cent fee.

Junior Isas are available to under-18s. They work in a similar way to a standard Isa, but the savings limit is £9,000. This does not count towards the £20,000 Isa allowance available to the adult who opens the Junior Isa account on behalf of a child. The child can take control of the account when they turn 16, but they cannot withdraw funds until they turn 18.

£1,000 free money

£1,000

Tax-free income you can earn from selling goods online



Personal savings

Basic-rate taxpayers can earn £1,000 of interest tax-free each year and higher-rate taxpayers £500 through the personal savings allowance.

It is not available to additional-rate taxpayers.

This allowance was less valuable to most savers while interest rates were at rock bottom, but now that they are starting to rise it is becoming more beneficial.

You can earn 3.71 per cent on an instant access account from the savings app Chip or 4.25 per cent from Hanley Economic Building Society, although you have to operate that account by post.

A higher-rate taxpayer would start paying tax on the income from the Chip account if they had more than about £13,500 held in it for a year, while a basic-rate taxpayer would pay once they had more than about £27,000 saved.

Although the personal savings allowance applies automatically, there are things you can do to make the most of it. For example, married couples can ensure that their interest-bearing savings are shared in such a way as to maximise their allowances.

Bear in mind also that if paying into your pension or making gift aid donations takes you into a lower income tax bracket, you will also benefit from the higher personal savings allowance.

Capital gains tax

A capital gain is the profit you make on the sale of an asset such as shares or property. The capital gains tax (CGT) allowance — the amount of gain you can make tax-free — is £6,000 for this tax year but will fall to £3,000 in April. For higher or additional-rate taxpayers CGT is charged at 20 per cent, or 28 per cent on residential property. Basic-rate taxpayers pay 10 per cent (or 18 per cent on residential property) if the gain is within the basic income tax band, or 20 per cent (28 per cent on property) on any amount above the basic tax rate.

Assets can normally be transferred between spouses on a "no gain no loss" basis. If only one spouse owns the asset that is due to be sold at a gain, the couple can benefit from two annual allowances if the asset is transferred into joint ownership before selling.

A higher-rate tax payer would normally pay £1,200 income tax on £6,000 of capital gains.

£6,000 tax-free income

Dividends

Dividends are the income that you make from shares. The dividend allowance — the amount of dividend income you can make before paying on it — is £1,000 for this tax year but is being reduced to £500 from April. Dividends are taxed at 33.75 per cent for higher-rate payers and 8.75 per cent for basic-rate payers. Additional-rate taxpayers pay 39.35 per cent.

Last year Lloyds paid dividends of 2.4p per share so if you had 41,700 shares you would have earned £1,000 in dividends, which would have been tax-free, according to the wealth manager AJ Bell.

If one member of a married couple receives dividends and the other does not, you could transfer shares between you and benefit from two allowances.

A higher-rate taxpayer would normally pay £337.50 in tax on £1,000 of dividend earnings.

£1,000 tax-free income

Trading

The trading allowance means that the first £1,000 a year you make from a hobby or side business (maybe selling on eBay or at car boot sales) is tax-free.

The trading allowance can also apply to certain casual earnings — sources of income that do not amount to a trade, such as babysitting, coaching or freelancing, according to Deloitte. A higher-rate taxpayer would normally pay £400 income tax on £1,000 of earnings.

£1,000 tax-free income

Rent a room

If you rent a furnished room in your home to a lodger, the first £7,500 of rent each year is tax-free. If you make more than this, you need to complete a tax return and decide whether to opt into the scheme and get the first £7,500 tax-free or pay tax according to your income and expenses.

A higher-rate taxpayer would normally pay £3,000 income tax on £7,500.

£7,500 tax-free income

Pension tax relief

When you contribute to your pension some of the money you would have paid in tax to the government goes into your pension instead. If you are a basic-rate taxpayer, then you get a 20 per cent top-up, so a £100 contribution would cost you only £80.

Higher and additional-rate taxpayers can get relief of 40 per cent and 45 per cent respectively but would usually have to claim the extra through a self-assessment tax return. Scotland has different rates of income tax and so get different levels of tax relief.

You can pay £60,000 a year into your pension and get tax relief on it. This allowance is reduced for those who earn more than £260,000 — by £1 for every £2 of adjusted income over £260,000 until the allowance falls to a minimum of £10,000. It would cost a higher-rate taxpayer £36,000 to add £60,000, including tax relief, into their pension.

Money

Investment tips for the slightly daring

In the second of our series **David Brenchley** helps you create a portfolio that suits your personality

When deciding on a level of risk that you are willing to tolerate in your investment portfolio, most people tend to come down in the "balanced", or moderate, category. This style of investing will provide you with a good slug of exposure to company shares as well as a decent chunk of bonds.

The most popular fund in the Vanguard LifeStrategy range, for instance, is the one with 60 per cent in equities and 40 per cent in bonds. Almost £14 billion of investors' cash is in this fund, according to the data firm FE fundinfo.

An asset allocation of 60/40 has traditionally been recommended for a balanced portfolio. Over the past 40 years, it has served investors well because share and bond prices have risen. But the portfolio failed to hold up last year because stock and bond prices fell amid rampant inflation and soaring interest rates. Some investors think the 60/40 portfolio will reassert its dominance, but others fear its days are numbered.

So, how should investors seeking a balanced risk build their portfolio?

1 Choose your split

If you want to invest in only two assets (equities and bonds), balance suggests half in each. However, over the long term, equities provide higher returns so the 60/40 split makes sense to maximise your gains. Bond yields sank to almost zero after the pandemic, but now they are at about 4 per cent in the UK and up to 5.4 per cent in the US.

"Despite the poor 2022, the concept of a well-balanced portfolio is alive and well," said Hilda Applbaum from the fund manager Capital Group.

Dzmitry Lipski from the investment platform Interactive Investor said that alternative assets were worth exploring for extra diversification.

These include gold, infrastructure and private equity. Make sure that you limit your alternatives to no more than 10 per cent of your portfolio — and reduce your bond allocation by the corresponding amount.

2 Think about stocks

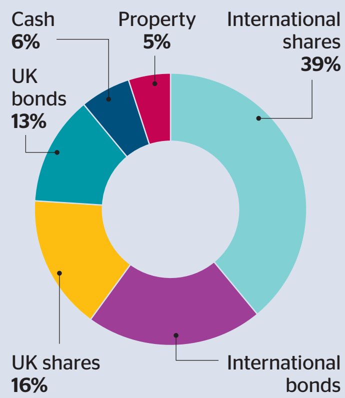
However much you allocate to company shares, this part of your portfolio is arguably the most important because it's where the bulk of your returns will come from. The starting point here should be a global index tracker, said John Moore from the wealth manager RBC Brewin Dolphin. This will provide you with the return of a basket of more than 2,100 global companies for a low annual fee. It excludes companies listed in riskier markets such as China and Brazil.

Consider using the Vanguard FTSE Developed World exchange traded fund (ETF) as the core of your portfolio. This can be complemented with "spicier" holdings in higher risk funds that have the potential to generate higher growth, Lipski said. These areas could include smaller companies, which tend to grow faster, or emerging markets.

Moore suggested investment trusts such as Blackrock Throgmorton, Smithson, Aberforth Smaller Companies and Fidelity Asian Values.

A moderate-risk portfolio

AJ Bell's Balanced fund



Source: AJ Bell

3 Choose your bonds

Bonds may have performed poorly through 2022, but that only makes them more attractive. During 2020, a ten-year UK government bond was yielding a paltry 0.1 per cent. Today, it yields about 4.2 per cent, and you can get better yields elsewhere too.

You can also make some good capital gains on UK government bonds, also known as gilts, said Moore. One benefit of buying gilts directly is that they are not liable for capital gains tax (although you may have to pay income tax). A gilt that expires in January 2025 can be bought for £93.11. The interest paid is low at 0.25 per cent, but you will get £100 back when it matures.

Moore said: "Investing in gilts has become a strong proposition for higher and additional rate taxpayers."

You could also invest in a fund that provides you with a ready-made, diversified portfolio of bonds. Interactive Investor highlights the Vanguard UK Government Bond Index and Vanguard Global Bond Index funds.

4 Look at alternatives

Some will happily stick with just equities and bonds, but Lipski said that alternatives can help to improve the risk-return characteristics of your portfolio.

Alternative asset classes can be volatile, but when combined in a diversified way as a small part of your portfolio, they can lower your volatility. This is because they have low correlations with global equities, meaning that they tend to move in the opposite direction.

Lipski suggested combining funds such as Abrdn Private Equity Opportunities Trust, WisdomTree Enhanced Commodity ETF and Balanced Commercial Property Investment Trust.

For exposure to infrastructure, where assets have rents that rise with inflation, Mike Hollings from the wealth manager Shard Capital suggested Digital 9 Infrastructure, which invests in things like data warehouses and sub-sea cables.

A balanced portfolio need not be complex — a few assets can generate returns while ensuring you still sleep at night. The key is diversification. "You must never have a portfolio where one day everything is up, because the next day everything will be down," Hollings said.

Next week: options for the adventurous risk-taking investor

Online
Follow David Brenchley's investments as he makes his changes
thetimes.co.uk/getrichslowly



Rush to beat the tax raid

Savers have rushed to beat the chancellor's tax raid and shield their investments from a large bill.

There were three times more "bed and Isa" transactions — where investments held outside of a tax wrapper are transferred into an Isa — on the AJ Bell investment platform in March and April than in the same months of 2022.

Interactive Investor, another platform, said applications were up 133 per cent this March compared with last March, having trebled in February.

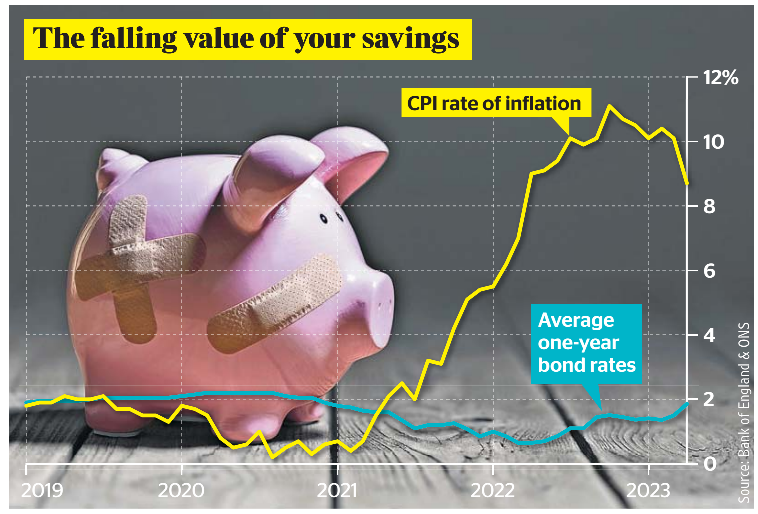
Tax thresholds were cut this year. The capital gains tax-free allowance (the amount of profit you can make from the sale of assets) more than halved from £12,300 to £6,000 in April and will drop again to £3,000 in April 2024. The dividend tax threshold also halved from £2,000 to £1,000 and will fall to £500 in April 2024.

"Some people will have been locking in capital gains and moving the money into an Isa, while others will have moved their income-producing investments into the tax wrapper to shield against the lower dividend allowance," said Laura Suter from AJ Bell.

Once you transfer investments, you will own fewer shares because of fees such as dealing charges and stamp duty, and you may be liable for CGT.

David Brenchley

You can’t beat inflation — but you can earn 5%



The real value of our cash is still dwindling despite savings rates being at a ten-year high, writes **George Nixon**

A combination of low savings rates and high inflation has wiped more than £1,200 from the real value of a £10,000 savings pot in just five years.

Inflation was 8.7 per cent for the year to April, its lowest level since March last year, the Office for National Statistics said on Wednesday. It was 10.1 per cent in the year to March.

Savings rates are at their highest level in a decade, with the top deals paying about 5 per cent — but they still don’t come close to beating inflation, which is still four times higher than the Bank of England’s target of 2 per cent. This means that the real value of your cash is being eroded every day.

The last time that savings accounts beat inflation was in April 2021, when 90 accounts paid a higher rate than the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) measure of inflation of 0.7 per cent at the time, according to the data firm Moneyfacts.

Rachel Springall from Moneyfacts said: “It has been two years since any standard savings account could beat inflation.”

There are now a record 1,408 savings accounts, according to the analyst Savings Champion, many paying the highest rates since 2008.

But if you had put £10,000 into the best one-year bond in April 2018, which paid 1.95 per cent, and moved your money into the top-paying account every year since, you would now have £10,853. (In April 2019 you could have earned 2.2 per cent, in April 2020 the best deal was 1.6 per cent, in 2021 it was 0.65 per cent and last year 1.86 per cent.)

But your £10,853 would actually now be worth just £8,769 in real terms, because of inflation, Savings Champion said.

The Bank of England expects the rate of inflation to be 5 per cent by the end of this year, but it is not forecast to reach the target 2 per cent until 2025.

If inflation is about to fall, then now could be a good time to grab a fixed-rate bond.

Short-term deals offer the best value — Shawbrook Bank pays 5.06 per cent on a one-year savings bond. You can get 5 per cent on a five-year bond from the Turkish bank Isbank, but your money will be tied up, meaning you would not be able to take advantage of better rates if they became available.

However, there is no guarantee that rates will improve. If inflation falls then the Bank of England may stop raising interest rates or even begin to lower them, which will affect savings rates.

8.7%
The rate of inflation for the year to April

£8,769
The real value of £10,000 after five years thanks to inflation

Those with a larger amount of cash to stash may be better hedging their bets. You could put some money in an easy-access account (the best rate is 3.82 per cent from the savings app Chip) or a one-year bond, and tie the rest up in a longer-term account.

Anna Bowes from Savings Champion said: “If you do have some cash that you could tie up for the longer term, that could end up being a very wise move if inflation continues to fall.

“Although there are no savings accounts that beat or even come close to matching 8.7 per cent inflation, choosing the best paying accounts can at least help to mitigate its effects.”

Given the level of inflation, the real value of £10,000 in an account paying 0.25 per cent would fall to £9,223 after a year.

If the account paid 5 per cent interest, the real terms value of your money would be a little more at £9,660.

Go short on your mortgage and hope that rates will fall

Homeowners are opting for shorter, higher-rate mortgage deals in the hope that interest rates will have fallen by the time they come to remortgage.

Some 14 per cent of new mortgage borrowers took a variable rate in March, according to the trade association UK Finance, the highest proportion since August 2013.

These loans normally move in line with the Bank of England base rate, which went up to 4.5 per cent on May 11 — the 12th rise since its record low of 0.1 per cent in December 2021. It is expected to rise again in June.

The proportion of borrowers who took a two-year fixed deal went from 22 per cent in October to 26 per cent in March, while five-year deals made up 52 per cent, down from 66 per cent.

This is despite the cheapest two-year fixed rate — 4.39 per cent from First Direct — being higher than the cheapest five-year fix of 4.03 per cent from the same bank. You would pay £42 more a month on a £200,000 mortgage on the two-year deal.

Bank rate is expected to peak by the end of this year at 5 per cent, and then fall. Some borrowers are accepting higher payments now in the hope that they will get cheaper soon.

Leeds Building Society and Barclays are offering one-year fixed rates for existing customers. Tracker mortgages have also become more popular because many have no early repayment charges, so you can switch at any time.

Aaron Strutt from the mortgage broker Trinity Financial said: “Clients are taking two-year fixes and deals with no early repayment charges, even though they could get lower monthly repayments if they locked in for five years.”

Nationwide Building Society, Halifax, Santander and Virgin Money all put up mortgage rates this week by up to 0.45 percentage points. The best tracker deal is from Barclays at Bank rate plus 0.15 percentage points — a starting rate of 4.65 per cent.

Mark Harris from the mortgage broker SPF Private Clients said to wait a few days for rates to settle: “Market assessment of where interest rates are heading has been consistently wrong over the past nine months. We remain confident that rates will shortly peak and the reductions, when they arrive, will be as quick as the recent rises.”

George Nixon

“Is inflation bursting your retirement *bubble?*”

Smart advice to help you make the right decisions for your financial future.

Brewin Dolphin

brewin.co.uk/*smartadvice*

Capital and income from it is at risk

Money

Unit trust and open-ended investment company prices Full funds service at thetimes.co.uk/funds

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Gilt Yield A ‡@	206.01	...	-0.62	1.05
Strategic Bond Fund ‡@	147.14	...	-2.61	4.57
UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.77	3.87
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	+49.77	3.28
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	316.09	...	-8.72	4.51
UK Gwth A ‡@	7889.52	...	-230.84	...
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-10.08	3.01
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-172.31	...

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
0800 092 2051
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Capital R Acc ‡@	2138.97	...	-56.82	3.35
Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	91.26	...	+1.71	1.29
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	85.36	...	+1.59	1.30
European Growth R Acc ‡@	396.15	...	-10.96	1.87
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	39.04	...	-2.12	1.21
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	333.22	...	-6.76	...
Global Income R Acc ‡@	150.12	...	-2.70	4.33
Global Income R Inc ‡@	94.37	...	-1.70	4.54
Global Select R Acc ‡@	150.11	...	-1.71	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	61.53	...	-0.61	...
Income R Acc ‡@	505.49	...	-13.13	3.77
Income R Inc ‡@	217.01	...	-5.64	3.89
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	62.42	...	-0.90	4.84
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@	90.47	...	-2.40	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	93.92	...	-1.14	3.69
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	48.85	...	-0.59	3.78
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	93.75	...	-1.14	3.69
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	48.81	...	-0.59	3.76
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	730.27	...	-17.79	2.14
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1802.00	...	-49.43	...
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	695.97	...	-20.32	1.11

AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.10	4.43
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	-1.50	1.08
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-1.00	1.09
Health Acc ‡@	2963.00	...	-57.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.93	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	-0.70	4.20
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	206.20	...	-3.50	5.97
UK Growth Inc ‡@	212.70	...	-6.40	0.64
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1843.00	...	-58.00	1.14
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	256.70	...	-4.70	0.04

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808
AXA Trusts

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	-53.00	2.64
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-32.00	2.70

UK/Global Investment Companies

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	+0.10	1.18
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	-1.81	1.16
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+1.20	0.52
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+0.90	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-18.60	...

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	211.80	...	-4.80	1.10
Sus Leaders ‡@	795.50	...	-17.10	1.15
UK Growth ‡@	622.70	...	-12.80	2.04
UK Income ‡@	201.20	...	-4.70	5.09

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.45	0.01

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	3590.61	...	-31.65	1.02

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡	82.40	...	-1.26	4.13
Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	322.80	...	-6.70	1.91
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	335.80	...	-3.50	0.53
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	120.80	...	-2.10	4.87
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	218.30	...	-7.50	1.53
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	268.60	...	-9.60	1.16

F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICS)
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	49.99	...	-0.58	1.57
Emerging Mkts ‡@	116.50	...	-8.20	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1267.00	...	-23.00	...
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	43.26	...	-0.22	1.88
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	421.50	...	-10.30	2.90
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	304.80	...	-5.30	...
High Inc Trst @	10.92	11.52	-0.07	5.52
Max Inc Bond ‡@	42.60	...	-0.20	3.39
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	+0.79	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	+0.45	3.37
North Amer ‡@	831.00	...	-5.70	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	472.20	...	-2.30	...
Strategic Bd ‡@	192.70	...	-1.50	1.46
UK Equity ‡@	3446.00	...	+34.00	1.27
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	+2.90	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	+1.00	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	1011.00	...	-21.00	...

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	2150.00	...	-35.00	...
American ‡@	5355.00	...	-57.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	594.70	...	-13.10	0.31
European ‡@	3546.00	...	-61.00	...
Extra Income ‡@	21.78	...	-0.32	5.55
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	5517.00	...	-72.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2918.00	...	-49.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+1.10	0.08
Japan ‡@	569.70	...	-3.70	...
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	42.43	...	-0.91	3.86
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-1.90	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	+0.20	2.97
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	28.17	...	-0.52	...
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	129.07	...	-3.11	3.14
Special Sits ‡@	4429.00	...	-84.00	2.56
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	-0.11	0.44

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	31.32	...	-0.68	...
Ethical ‡@	112.50	...	-0.90	0.01
European ‡@	113.30	...	-2.40	1.91
Far Eastern ‡	111.80	...	-1.10	...
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	133.90	...	-2.20	0.43
Intl Gwth ‡	126.50	...	-1.40	1.44
Japanese ‡	71.94	...	-0.61	...
North Amer ‡	151.00	...	-1.00	...
Smaller Cos ‡@	102.60	...	-2.70	1.17
Special Sits ‡@	49.80	...	-1.53	...
UK Equity Inc ‡@	90.58	...	-2.36	3.75
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	70.53	...	-1.75	...
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	79.21	...	-1.97	...
UK Growth ‡@	81.87	...	-2.10	...

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	923.55	...	-3.19	...
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	731.96	...	-2.53	...
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1213.86	...	-26.70	2.13
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	755.55	...	-16.62	2.20
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	279.26	...	-5.87	2.99
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	124.71	...	-2.61	3.06
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	286.99	...	-4.43	2.25
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	171.11	...	-2.64	2.25
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	708.78	...	-14.14	3.02
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	352.16	...	-7.03	3.09
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	146.16	...	-1.84	1.93
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	111.74	...	-1.40	2.25
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	498.35	...	-0.40	...
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	302.70	...	-0.25	...

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	241.17	...	-2.27	0.92
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	+3.09	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	258.53	...	-5.86	...
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	99.40	...	-2.25	...
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+7.06	...
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+1.05	...
Income Acc ‡@	715.82	...	-14.39	4.09
Income Inc ‡@	293.70	...	-5.90	4.22
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	-1.33	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	126.75	...	-2.49	3.90
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	146.61	...	-2.78	4.01
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	64.71	...	-1.23	4.13
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	146.61	...	-2.78	4.01
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	64.71	...	-1.23	4.13

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	923.55	...	-3.19	...
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	731.96	...	-2.53	...
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.67	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.59	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	-13.85	...
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	-11.72	...
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	-10.00	0.41
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	-8.39	0.44

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	+1.71	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-1.59	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-2.40	1.49
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-1.17	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-1.19	2.18
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-1.47	2.24
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	+2.16	...
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	+0.86	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	+2.83	4.32
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-2.35	...
Managed @	130.89	138.15	+0.95	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+1.59	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	+0.63	0.58
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-0.26	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	-8.40	0.15
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	-6.93	0.21

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	+0.24	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.32	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-2.78	7.05

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	466.89	...	-9.19	2.27
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	193.66	...	-3.53	...
High Income Inc ‡@	314.07	...	-6.12	3.93
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	415.29	...	-9.65	3.03
Income Inc ‡@	1231.33	...	-26.07	3.49
Money Acc ‡@	93.13	...	+0.03	1.95
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	89.82	...	-0.88	6.18
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	+0.90	...

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Growth Acc ‡@	897.11	...	-23.29	1.62
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1309.65	...	-36.02	...
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	-1.65	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS

Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900

OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	692.05	...	-3.57	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	732.97	...	-5.73	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	+8.50	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	370.99	...	-3.73	1.88
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	232.45	...	-2.34	1.90
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	126.56	...	-1.06	0.60
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	134.03	...	-1.11	...
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	319.70	...	-1.45	2.82
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	67.45	...	-0.31	4.24
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	111.99	...	-0.42	4.84
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.06	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	64.03	...	-0.24	6.70
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	144.18	...	-0.73	0.96
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	181.92	...	-0.61	5.02
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	70.49	...	-0.23	5.26
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-1.26	...
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-4.54	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+5.98	...
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+4.52	...
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+46.14	...
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+6.88	0.47
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-4.81	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	232.15	...	-2.25	0.13
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	307.18	...	-4.59	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1258.90	...	+2.61	0.38
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	190.31	...	-9.54	0.80
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	314.76	...	-4.37	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	243.46	...	-3.39	...
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	274.70	...	-2.96	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+2.02	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.42	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	166.63	...	-0.29	...
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.50	...
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.23	...
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.39	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	-0.07	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2670.61	...	-60.29	1.95
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+5.67	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	4621.07	...	-47.21	...
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	4144.82	...	-42.34	...
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1382.95	...	-41.15	1.54
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	495.75	...	-14.75	1.57



For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS

Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	109.60	...	-2.20	2.12
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	76.18	...	-0.45	6.03
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	280.10	...	-6.70	...
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	136.90	...	-3.30	...
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1050.00	...	-36.00	0.28
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	191.60	...	+1.70	0.76
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	300.90	...	-5.30	1.15
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2293.00	...	-47.00	1.15
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	27.93	...	-0.42	4.79
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	4146.00	...	-85.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	66.69	...	-0.93	3.28
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	3124.00	...	+32.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	114.30	...	-2.87	2.87
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	162.90	...	-1.00	0.81
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	255.50	...	-2.20	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	143.60	...	-3.20	2.71
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	186.20	...	-2.50	...
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	197.20	...	-4.10	1.82
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	53.56	...	-1.10	1.84
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	100.20	...	-1.80	3.26
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	169.70	...	-0.80	...
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	136.80	...	-4.40	1.12
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	+6.60	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.38	2.63
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	+0.15	2.68
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1764.00	...	-2.00	...

JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT

OEIC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	259.00	...	-1.80	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	261.50	...	+1.30	...
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	270.30	...	+8.30	0.47
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	864.00	...	+24.20	...
Europe A Acc ‡@	1734.00	...	+62.00	1.35
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	117.30	...	+1.40	5.30
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	30.89	...	+0.38	5.45
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	257.40	...	-0.60	0.07
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	196.80	...	-0.40	0.08
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+12.00	...
Global A Acc ‡@	2049.00	...	+25.00	...
Japan A Acc ‡@	516.80	...	+4.20	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1268.00	...	+20.00	0.57
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1127.00	...	+18.00	0.58
Nat Resources ‡@	951.20	...	+27.20	...
New Europe A ‡@	155.70	...	-73.10	2.11
Portfolio ‡@	295.60	...	+0.60	0.98
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	85.59	...	-0.61	...
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	48.30	...	-0.35	...
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-1.30	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	206.70	...	+6.80	...
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	148.20	...	+4.90	...
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	-4.70	3.45
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	-0.54	3.49
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	+2.30	3.41
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	+0.88	3.50
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1132.00	...	+12.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡@	531.30	...	+4.30	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	563.30	...	+18.80	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.90	...	+5.70	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	+2.87	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+14.00	...
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	976.20	...	+26.90	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	31.80	...	-0.05	0.11
Distribution and Growth ‡@	95.66	...	-1.12	...
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-72.04	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	465.28	...	-6.37	...
European ‡@	2990.12	...	-27.06	...
Financial Opps ‡@	683.74	...	-14.47	0.20
Income Trust ‡@	496.80	...	-13.02	3.92
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	230.65	...	-1.25	2.05
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	537.21	...	-6.13	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	340.15	...	-3.96	2.86
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	377.77	...	-2.86	...
UK Growth ‡@	260.01	...	-5.57	0.67
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	203.14	...	-4.89	2.15

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	+17.00	2.12
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	+5.60	2.15
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	535.90	...	-11.90	2.11
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	351.10	...	-7.80	2.16
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	126.60	...	-2.50	2.35
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	59.04	...	-1.14	2.38
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	+0.60	1.15
Glob Health Acc ‡@	107.30	...	-1.40	...
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	101.10	...	+2.86	...
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-2.10	0.17
High Inc Acc ‡@	121.60	...	-0.60	...
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	71.05	...	-0.95	1.75
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	200.80	...	-0.40	...
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+7.60	3.19
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	+1.80	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	345.90	...	-8.40	3.11
UK Index Dist ‡@	164.30	...	-4.00	3.19
US Ind Acc ‡@	814.00	...	+2.10	...
Worldwide Acc ‡@	334.70	...	-4.80	0.73

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1436.65	...	-30.49	5.51

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	+6.31	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	+5.55	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	678.81	...	-13.84	5.01
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	72.31	...	-1.56	2.59
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	38.85	...	-0.19	5.66
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	106.16	...	-3.29	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	76.67	...	-1.86	3.63
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	24.86	...	-0.09	2.80
UK Select A Inc ‡	2782.35	...	-60.49	2.27

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	32.43	...	-0.56	...
Dividend Inc ‡	51.69	...	-1.21	5.79
Recovery A Inc ‡	107.55	...	-2.15	3.50
Sml Cos Inc ‡	323.99	...	-5.36	2.41

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	137.88	...	-0.68	...

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
High Income	83.95	83.95	-1.04	4.19
High Income Acc	237.50	237.50	-3.00	4.08
UK 100 Comp Acc @	456.80	456.80	-10.20	2.87
UK 100 Cos @	224.40	224.40	-5.00	2.94
UK Select Pflo @	339.30	339.30	-8.80	3.17
UK Selection Port Acc @	702.10	702.10	-18.30	1.49
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	931.40	931.40	-10.70	1.30
Wwide Mgd @	544.80	544.80	-6.20	1.31

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	752.83	...	-6.82	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	748.58	...	-6.82	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	919.97	...	-11.78	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	841.37	...	-10.78	...
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	918.46	...	-11.78	...
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	839.83	...	-10.77	...
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	926.26	...	-10.79	...
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	906.73	...	-10.56	...
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	924.96	...	-10.79	...
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	906.50	...	-10.57	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1311.13	...	-20.64	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1826.57	...	-28.85	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1401.94	...	-22.14	...
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1572.25	...	-32.42	0.70
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	13635.96	...	-241.02	...
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1500.26	...	-30.92	0.70
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	3732.98	...	-65.99	...
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	539.31	...	-16.56	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	539.31	...	-16.56	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	536.53	...	-16.50	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	536.54	...	-16.50	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1170.99	...	-14.76	0.62
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1253.55	...	-12.55	0.62
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1270.77	...	-12.76	0.47
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1169.12	...	-14.73	0.47
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1278.01	...	-12.80	0.62
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	116.80	...	-2.15	...
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	91.36	...	-1.68	3.40
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2483.14	...	-45.68	...
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1296.01	...	-23.85	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	927.98	...	-3.31	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	883.03	...	-3.14	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	923.45	...	-3.32	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	882.70	...	-3.18	...
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1480.13	...	-53.07	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	836.06	...	-33.30	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1573.53	...	-56.52	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	875.71	...	-34.89	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	...	2.41
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	228.10	...	-4.80	1.18
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	197.40	...	-3.70	5.12
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+6.00	3.09
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	263.70	263.70	-5.20	3.11
UK Growth Acc ‡@	454.80	...	-7.50	3.18
UK Growth Inc ‡@	239.50	...	-4.00	3.26

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+12.14	0.78
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	+3.79	...
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	-0.13	0.75
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.57	...
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-73.67	1.11
Mutual Far Eastern	898.96	948.77	-2.07	...
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+19.24	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1419.40	1428.80	-5.79	2.59
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	+29.21	...
UK Equity Inc	562.23	593.38	-8.90	1.56

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	-0.10	0.01
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	0.43
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	0.60
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	-0.70	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	-0.50	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3541.00	...	-61.00	2.03

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	386.50	...	-8.90	2.91
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	191.40	...	-4.50	2.98

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	272.90	...	-7.00	2.49
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	-2.60	2.52
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	381.70	...	-9.20	1.73
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	229.70	...	-0.70	...
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	67.33	...	-0.21	...
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	375.80	...	-8.90	3.66
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	116.60	...	-2.70	3.74
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	-0.14	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	182.70	...	-3.30	3.54
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	79.56	...	-1.44	3.61
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	196.10	...	-4.80	...
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2324.00	...	-65.00	...

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	426.80	...	-9.90	3.00
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	190.30	...	-4.40	3.08

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.40	1.39
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.10	1.40
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.60	1.79
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	+8.00	1.09

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	126.60	...	-3.00	3.27
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	+8.00	1.29

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	86.55	...	-1.52	1.38
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	48.54	...	-0.85	1.39
AAA Income Acc ‡@	94.35	...	-1.64	1.79
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	202.30	...	-3.20	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	150.20	...	-3.20	3.24
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	49.88	...	-1.04	3.31
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	262.10	...	...	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	147.10	...	-2.30	1.38
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	194.20	...	-3.10	1.35
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	160.50	...	-2.20	...
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	144.70	...	-0.60	4.40
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	44.61	...	-0.17	4.53
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	-0.30	...
Managed Acc ‡@	362.60	...	-6.80	0.69
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	-0.06	...
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.29	...
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	372.70	...	-0.20	...
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	230.00	...	-0.10	...
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	265.30	...	-5.90	4.49
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	71.80	...	-1.59	4.65
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	201.20	...	-5.80	2.22
UK Opps Acc ‡@	234.40	...	-1.90	...
UK Opps Inc ‡@	211.70	...	-1.70	...
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	744.80	...	-15.40	0.66

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries:0141 222 1151

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	133.38	...	-1.35	1.25
Balanced A Inc ‡@	118.58	...	-1.21	1.26
Cautious A Acc ‡@	110.41	...	-0.95	1.81
Cautious A Inc ‡@	95.04	...	-0.83	1.83
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	326.62	...	-3.50	0.91
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	293.06	...	-3.14	0.91
Growth A Acc ‡@	335.87	...	-3.41	1.09
Income A Acc ‡@	243.93	...	-2.46	...
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	+1.39	3.52
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	+0.54	3.61

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	127.56	...	-2.58	1.50

Retail Shares (Class 1)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	36.29	...	-0.09	...
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	77.75	...	-1.57	3.55
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	51.85	...	-0.98	2.57
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	51.75	...	-0.98	2.23
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	41.70	...	-1.06	2.46
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	39.95	...	-0.43	3.65
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	99.22	...	-2.23	3.40
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	92.25	...	-1.91	2.72
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	181.41	...	-4.36	1.83
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	68.04	...	-1.56	4.12
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	136.75	...	-3.68	1.43
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	349.24	...	-7.82	...

For Resolution see Ignis
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
British	946.50	946.50	-19.50	...
European	210.70	219.40	+3.90	...

This list contains unit trusts and Oeics widely held by private investors. The weekly price change is based on a Friday-to-Thursday trading period.* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Who has my £30k Premium Bonds?

Times Money Mentor
Troubleshooter

Katherine Denham



When my husband died in 2021, he left £30,000 in Premium Bonds as part of his estate. National Savings & Investments (NS&I) told me that I could leave the money in his account for a year so that it would still be entered into the monthly prize draws. I did this and earned £325 in prizes.

In January my solicitor sent me a form to fill in so that NS&I could transfer the money to my current account with Cambridge Building Society.

In mid-February I had a letter from NS&I saying it had transferred the £30,000 and that cheques had been sent to me for the prizes. I received the cheques a few days later, but it is now March and I still don't have the £30,000.

Cambridge Building Society told me it had sent the money back to NS&I because my account number and name was missing from the payment. NS&I said it had not received the money. I have phoned NS&I at least once a week and spent hours on hold, only to go through all my security information every time. It has just been one excuse after another. I want to be able to transfer the maximum £20,000 into my Isa.
Janet, Cambridgeshire

Troubleshooter says
The Premium Bonds savings scheme does not pay interest but gives you the chance to win cash prizes of between £25 and £1 million in the monthly prize draw. The expected prize rate is 3.3 per cent. The more bonds you own, the higher the chance of winning and in a year you won 13 prizes.

Premium Bonds cannot be jointly owned, but when someone dies their money can remain in the account for a year before being paid out to whoever is entitled to it. After you sent the form asking to cash in the Premium Bonds the money was sent to your current account. Cambridge Building Society received the money but wasn't able to credit it to your account.

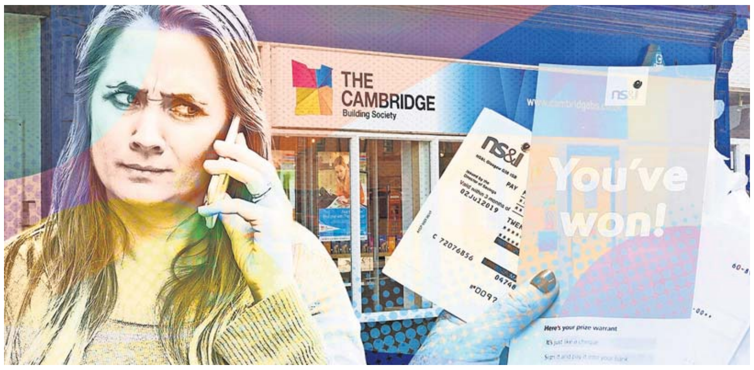
NS&I said that it was because you hadn't included your roll number in the payment form. Some building societies use roll numbers to identify customers on top of a sort code and account number. But why had NS&I tried to pay in the money if this information was missing? It said: "As the customer had filled in their bank details, we wouldn't have been aware that the account needed a roll number."

Cambridge Building Society, however, told me it couldn't process the payment because NS&I had not included your account number in its transfer request. Cambridge Building Society also said that it had sent the money back to NS&I two days after it was received. This didn't line up with NS&I's version of events, which said it took more than a month for it to get the money back.

Either way, after I intervened NS&I sent you a cheque for £30,000.

NS&I said: "We would like to apologise to Janet. Our team has investigated and established that, at times, our customer was not given the advice and level of service that she should have expected from us. In recognition of the inconvenience caused, we have sent a goodwill payment of £100."

You had the money just in time to use your Isa before the end of the tax year.



If you would like us to investigate a consumer problem, write to Troubleshooter, Times Money, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF or troubleshooter@thetimes.co.uk. Please include a phone number

A long way from Hong Kong

In November 2020 I was due to fly to Hong Kong to visit family. I paid £400 for Virgin Atlantic flights which I booked through the travel agent Expedia. But before my flight, Hong Kong changed its Covid entry rules so that only its residents were eligible to travel from the UK, which meant I wasn't able to go.

Virgin allowed me to rebook my flights for the next year, which I did, but the entry restrictions were still in place. Virgin it said it was happy to let me rebook at a later date. The agent told me I would just need to contact Expedia to confirm my new dates when ready.

So in September last year, after Hong Kong had relaxed its restrictions, I called Expedia to rebook my trip. However it said that Virgin does not fly to Hong Kong any more.

I then used Expedia's online chat service to ask for a refund, but was told that the company no longer had access to the ticket. The customer service agent said this could be because the airline had either changed something about my ticket or had already refunded me. Expedia told me to contact Virgin, but Virgin is telling me to speak to Expedia to get a refund.

It's really difficult to sort this problem out when I booked through a third-party agent.
Patricia Ting,
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Troubleshooter says
It has been more than three years since flights were affected by Covid-related travel restrictions and yet I still hear from readers who are having problems getting refunds from travel agents. Many, like you, end up going in circles between the airline and agent.

Virgin Atlantic suspended its Heathrow to Hong Kong service in December 2021 and decided not to reopen it in March 2023 because of "operational complexities" caused by the closure of Russian airspace.

Expedia said: "After several attempts to reach Virgin's customer service team, we finally received confirmation that Ms Ting's ticket was purged and cannot be rebooked." It said it understood the frustration this would have caused but that the situation was out of its control.

I turned to Virgin, which told me the money had been refunded to your original payment method in November. Your credit card with Tandem had been cancelled by that point because the firm closed its credit card business.

I asked why Virgin hadn't told you about the refund so that you could have looked out for the payment, but it said it was up to Expedia to notify you. It definitely sounds like there had been a lapse in communication between the two companies but Expedia then sent you the full cost of the ticket as a gesture of goodwill.

You were reluctant to fill in the Tandem forms to retrieve the lost refund because Expedia has paid you back anyway — but I have offered to help. You may end up with twice as much money. Watch this space.



Money

Dividend yields Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.
12-month high and low Please note the 12-month high and low figures for shares supplied by Morningstar are based on intra-day figures, not closing prices.

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
297	89½	Aston Martin Lag	264⅜	-1½	...	-1.5

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
236	133	**Abrdn**	201¾	+3	...	4.3
2361	1729	**Admiral**‡	2319	+6	...	11.8
66⅞	23½	ADVFN♦	23½	...	...	4.1
390	255⅛	AJ Bell	317⅜	+1½	...	29.7
27254¼	20146⅝	Aon Corpn	25214	-19⅜	...	61.5
42¾	23⅝	Appreciate Group♦	42⅛	...	...	18.3
1002½	645	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	942½	...	...	20.8
14	8½	Argo Group♦	9	+½	...	4.1
286⅜	180⅞	Ashmore	228	+1⅛	...	7.7
1371	1107¾	Aus New Z	1238⅜	+6¼	...	9.6
467⅞	373¾	**Aviva**	401¼	+1⅛	...	52.8
341½	193⅜	Banco Santander	276½	+2	...	6.6
3375	1306	Bank of Georgia	3180	-30	...	9.8
189⅝	133⅞	**Barclays**	157¼	+¼	...	3.8
¼	...	Blue Star Capital♦	⅛	...	...	3.1
346	283	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	327	+3	...	9.0
14	6¾	Braveheart Inv♦	11½	...	...	0.3
515	507	Brewin Dolphin	515	+1	...	28.1
337	173⅞	Bridgepoint	218⅛	+2½	...	13.6
65½	33½	Cenkos Secs♦‡	33½	-1½	...	6.8
325	262½	Chesnara‡	282	-½	...	15.6
53	9	City of Lon Gp♦	10	+1	...	-0.6
474	343½	City Lon Inv Gp	438	+2	...	10.2
1148	858½	Close Bros	904½	-15½	...	6.7
317	167	CMC Markets	175½	-1½	...	5.3
1038⅞	498½	Commerzbk	844¼	-⅝	...	43.2
1073¼	660½	Deutsche Bk	845⅝	+3½	...	9.9
260⅜	135	Direct Line Ins	165⅛	-2½	...	6.8
58½	57	Downing ONE VCT	57	...	...	7.7
6	...	Drumz♦	5	...	...	...
129⅝	60¾	EFG-Hermes Hldg	65¼	-7⅝	...	4.2
211	122½	EPE Special Opps♦	161½	...	...	9.0
1232⅞	821⅞	FBD	1124⅛	...	...	5.0
72½	67½	Fiske♦	67½	...	...	12.0
78	59	Frenkel Topping♦	70	...	...	40.7
849	548	Georgia Capital	840	+10	...	2.3
910	682	Gresham House♦‡	755	-10	...	30.3
506	320	H&T Group♦‡	417	-4	...	13.3
55½	33	Hansard Global	52⅜	-3	...	18.0
983	740¾	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	800⅜	+8½	...	14.2
172½	143⅜	Helios Under♦	167½	-5	...	...
647½	442⅛	**HSBC**‡	610¾	+4⅜	...	13.3
847½	648	IG Group	685	+4½	...	6.9
883	500	Impax♦	783	-1	...	25.8
1612	953⅛	Intermed Capital	1348	+14	...	7.7
114	64⅜	IPF	111	+½	...	6.2
170	136	International Public P'ship‡	138⅜	-1⅜	...	17.7
546⅜	351½	Investec	422½	-2½	...	10.6
330	253	Investment Co	330	+5	...	11.8
88	52½	IP Group‡	57⅛	+2	...	2.1
230	94	Jarvis Securities♦‡	152½	...	...	10.9
179½	83¾	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	108	-1½	...	4.0
95¼	55⅞	Just Group	87	-1½	...	...
664	368½	Lancashire Holdings‡	617½	-2½	...	...
284¼	204	**Legal & Gen**‡	228	...	...	7.0
...	...	Liberty Group	502⅝	-2⅝	...	...
1290	704	Liontrust	757	-2	...	9.4
55¼	37½	Livermore Invs♦	38	+½	...	2.4
53⅞	39	**Lloyds Banking Gp**	45½	-¼	...	6.3
33½	22	LMS Capital‡	24¼	...	...	10.5
8582	6738	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**	8484	+146	...	86.7
222⅛	159⅞	**M&G**	198¼	+6¼	...	61.9
286¾	204¼	Man	220¾	+1	...	8.8
29	8	Manx Fin♦	23½	...	...	11.9
3	1	Marechale Cap♦	1⅝	...	...	0.8
14722	11702	Marsh McLn	14010⅛	-35⅝	...	29.1
745	530	Mattioli Woods♦	635	...	...	...
19½	7½	Metal Tiger♦	9	+¾	...	3.5
153⅛	69	Metro Bank	103	-5	...	-0.7
1727¾	1367⅞	Nat Aust Bk	1384	+10	...	13.7
309⅞	212⅜	**NatWest**	267½	-¾	...	10.5
341	170⅜	Numis♦‡	333½	...	...	6.7
587½	375⅜	Onesavings Bank	493	-8½	...	6.5
652	393½	PayPoint	393½	+1½	...	12.3
6½	¼	PCF Group♦	⅞	+¼	...	-0.4
684⅛	506¾	**Phoenix**	556	+⅛	...	-6.4
260	136¼	Provident	225	...	...	4.2
1371½	797½	**Prudential**	1125	+15½	...	18.2
2¼	⅞	Quantum Blockchain♦	1⅞	+⅜	...	...
122⅞	80¼	Quilter	81¾	...	...	58.4
109¾	52	Randall & Quilter♦	52	-⅝	...	77.6
2220	1570	Rathbone Grp	1950	+10	...	15.0
1⅛	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	2.0
2050	1370	Rockwood Strategic	2050	...	...	3.0
2540	1905	S & U	2490	-80	...	11.7
2	⅝	Sancus Lending Grp♦	⅝	...	...	-0.3
56¾	40⅝	Schroder REIT	43⅜	...	...	4.6
604⅜	358¾	**Schroders**	456¾	+5¾	...	2.1
1304½	920	**St James Place**‡	1112½	+7½	...	21.1
790¾	519½	**Stand Chart**	649⅜	+5½	...	14.5
12	6½	Starvest♦	6½	-½	...	-1.0
29	22½	STM Group♦	24½	...	...	9.4
4099¼	3210½	Sun Life Can	3989¾	+48⅛	...	10.2
10	5¾	Tavistock Inv♦	7¼	-¼	...	1.2
2590	1158	TBC Bank Group‡	2395	-50	...	7.0
16¾	3½	Tern♦	3½	-½	...	2.6
29¼	15¼	Time Finance♦	29⅛	...	...	17.8
1245	900	Volvere♦	1200	...	...	...
42	18½	WH Ireland♦	22	...	...	12.3
31	24	Walker Crips Grp	26	...	...	74.2
3932	2937¼	Wells Fargo	3356⅜	+39⅞	...	9.1
1292⅞	1012⅝	Westpac	1103⅞	+1½	...	14.9
31	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	29¼	...	...	91.5
41017⅞	34890¾	Zurich Fincl	38042⅞	+375⅜	...	14.8

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
1960½	1042	**3i Group**	1938	+34½	...	11.1
363	281½	3i Infrastructure	314	+2½	...	-4.1
102½	80¼	Abrdn Div I&G	87	+1	...	-26.2
1428	1066	Aberforth Smlr	1244	...	...	-13.9
1046	876	Alliance	1006	+14	...	-6.5
457	337	Asia Dragon Tr	381	+3	...	-13.8
230	171½	Athelney Trust	185	...	...	-17.5
206½	171¾	AVI Global Trust	190⅜	+¾	...	-10.7
348	204½	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	220	-3½	...	-12.7
102⅛	73½	Baillie Gifford Eu Gr	93½	+⅞	...	-14.7
829	657	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr	740	-7	...	-8.6
168	131¼	Baillie Gifford SN	142	-½	...	-10.4
183	139⅜	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	164	-⅛	...	-14.2
109½	90⅞	Bankers	99¼	+1⅜	...	-11.6
5232	380	BH Macro	416	...	...	3.5
1048	745⅜	Biotech Growth	834	-3	...	-7.8
151	95	BlckRck Com Inc	115	-2⅜	...	-6.0
144½	116½	BlckRck Fro Inv	138½	+½	...	-8.5
566	396	BlckRck Grt Euro	544	+4	...	-4.5
206	165	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	191	+½	...	-8.6
457	330	BlckRck Latin Am	385	+6	...	-14.5
215	180	BlckRck SustAm	183	-2¼	...	-4.8
1526	1162	BlckRck Smlr	1300	-4	...	-12.7
670	477⅞	BlckRck Throgmorton	581	-5	...	-5.5
774	524	BlckRck Wld Min	595	+1	...	1.0
325	256	CT Cap&Inc	301	-5½	...	-1.3
122⅜	68½	Balanced Comm Prop	81⅜	+1½	...	-34.1
162¾	122	The Glbl Smaller	142½	-½	...	-12.9
534	375½	CT Priv Eq Ord	480	-4	...	-30.3
94⅛	60	CT Real Estate	77¼	-⅞	...	-35.0
90	71	CT UK HIT	83	...	...	-6.5
93	79	CT UK HIT B	90½	...	...	1.9
356	294	CT UK HIT UNIT	330	...	...	-7.0
1335	1072½	Brown Advsr US Sm	1175	-12½	...	-13.6
1115	888	Brunner	1055	+2½	...	-12.2
4065	3015	Caledonia Inv	3430	-20	...	-30.3
175	141	Invesco BondInc	161½	-¼	...	1.5
432	366½	City of Lon IT	407	+2	...	2.1
121	75	Crystal Amber Fd	81	...	...	-33.3
580	454	Dunedin Entp	560	...	...	-8.1
690	537	Edinburgh IT	660	+1	...	-7.6
214	146⅜	Edin Wwide	148½	+1	...	-18.5
336	268	EP Global Opp	318	-6	...	-10.7
105	74½	European Assets	90	-¼	...	-7.7
796	608	European Opp Tr	780	+7	...	-12.1
989	769	**F&C Invest Tr**	895	+13	...	-6.6
530⅞	413½	Fidlty Asian Val	518	+6	...	-2.5
294¼	178⅛	Fidelity China Sp	215	...	...	-10.1
362	258½	Fidlty Euro Val	354½	+2½	...	-4.7
185	143	Fidlty Jap Tru	179½	+1½	...	-8.9
293½	232	Fidlty Spec Val	274	-3	...	-6.0
923	731¾	Fins Gwth & Inc	891	+6	...	-3.9
118¾	81	GCP Infrastructure	81⅛	-½	...	-21.5
659⅞	552⅝	Gen Emer Mkts	585⅞	...	...	-14.3
45	28½	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	31	-½	...	-15.4
168½	130⅜	Greencoat UK Wind	149	-2	...	-8.3
194⅝	162⅞	Hansa Investment	166	-½	...	-45.1
196	160	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	160	-3½	...	-46.1
2489	1900	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2180	+15	...	-43.9
165½	120½	Hend Euro Foc	155	+1½	...	-12.9
181	137¼	Hend High Inc	168½	+½	...	-0.1
952	674¼	Hend Smlr	789	-6	...	-13.4
1966	1540	Herald	1780	+18	...	-14.9
418	310	HgCapital Trust	396½	+15	...	-18.4
183⅜	138⅞	HICL Infra	142⅛	-⅜	...	-9.5
450	216	Highbridge Tactical	389	...	...	47.5
1223¾	928	ICG Ent Tr	1150	-18	...	-39.6
486⅜	373⅛	Impax Env Mkts	413½	+4½	...	-4.7
374	279	Invesco Asia Tr	319	...	...	-12.7
175	141	Invesco BondInc	161½	-¼	...	1.5
157⅜	110½	IPST Bal	131½	...	...	-11.8
258½	200	IPST Gbl Eq	232	...	...	-13.0
101¾	92	IPST Managed	91	...	...	-16.7
179	141	IPST UK Eq	155	-7½	...	-11.5
504	373½	IP UKSmallerCos	432	+2½	...	-9.8
800	650	JPM American	737	+14	...	-4.4
402	222	JPM Asia	352	+2	...	-8.9
451½	239½	JPM Chinese	266	-1½	...	-9.8
726	624	JPM Claverhs	664	+2	...	-4.3
120⅜	91	JPM Em Mkts	106	+1⅜	...	-10.1
449	339	JPM Euro disc	408	+5	...	-14.2
142½	107½	JPM GEMI	128	+½	...	-9.8
481	386	JPM GG&I	464½	+6	...	0.7
898	719⅞	JPM Indian	820	+6	...	-18.0
353	301	JPM Jap Sml Co	314½	+2	...	-12.0
510	408½	JPM Japan#	485½	-1½	...	-7.5
1012	735	JPM Mid Cap	884	-14	...	-12.8
104	85¼	JPM Multi-Ass G&I	93	-½	...	-2.2
¾	¾	ME & Africa Sec Plc"	05¼	+111½	...	...
315	230	JPM Smllr Co	268	-1½	...	-13.2
244½	174	Keystone IT	208	...	...	-16.8
871	649	Law Debenture	806	+4	...	1.3
135	99	Lowland	120	-½	...	-9.3
223	156¾	Majedie	200	-2½	...	-14.6
354	272⅛	M Currie Port	352	+7	...	-0.9
117	89⅞	Marwyn Val In	96	...	...	-44.0
222	158¼	Mercantile IT	198⅛	-1⅛	...	-13.6
606	480	Merchants	556	...	...	1.1
768	639¾	Mid Wynd	695	+1	...	-2.0
1102	875	Monks Inv Tst	987	+9	...	-11.0
151⅛	104⅛	Montanaro Eur Sml	140⅛	+2	...	-12.6
897	715	Murray Income Trust	848	...	...	-7.0
275¾	225½	Murray Int	263½	+1	...	0.5
85	70½	Nb Global Floating	72	-2½	...	-4.2
384	258	Pacific Assets	373	+10	...	-7.1
309	229⅛	Pantheon Int	272	-½	...	-40.5
3115	2295	**Pershing Sq**	2800	+44	...	-37.1
501½	463¾	Personal Assets	474	-1½	...	-0.6
2288¾	1697½	Polar Cap Tech	2195	+40	...	-14.3
202	130	Prem Glb & Inf	142½	-2	...	-12.9
148½	112½	Renewables Inf	118½	-3	...	-9.5
2570	1789⅞	RIT Cap Ptnr	1856	...	...	-18.8
750	530⅜	Riverstone	574	+9	...	-49.5
457	366½	Schroder TotRt	417	+8	...	-4.9
549¾	446	Schrd Asia Pac	493½	+3½	...	-11.4
324	254½	Schrod Inc Gwth	298	-2½	...	-0.3
223	187	Schrod Jap Gwth	223	...	...	-9.1
626	454	Schrod UKMid	534	-9	...	-13.4
24¼	11½	Schroder UK PP Tr	13¾	-¼	...	-49.1
543	434	Scot American	525	+2	...	0.1
937¾	604¾	**Scot Mtge**	666⅜	+9	...	-19.7
242	205	Secs Tst Scot	216	-2	...	-0.9
99⅜	75½	Sequoia Eco	80	-½	...	-11.0
249½	195⅛	Temple Bar	227	+1½	...	-5.9
166	128½	Tplton Emg Mkt	148⅜	+1⅛	...	-14.2
⅜	...	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	45.8
421	263	TR Property	286	-½	...	-6.6
76	64⅜	Troy Inc&Gth	70¾	+⅛	...	-2.2
230	122	Utilico Ord	143½	...	...	-28.1
229	197½	Utilico Emerging Mkt	222	-1	...	-14.4
712	500	Vietnam Ent Inv	548	-3	...	-16.8
237½	199¾	Witan	228½	+1	...	-8.5
3500	2820	Ww Health	3245	-5	...	-8.8



Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
189	133	Alumasc♦	172½	...	...	8.7
11¼	8⅞	Aseana Props	9¼	...	...	-4.6
71¾	47⅝	Assura	47¾	-¼	...	9.5
2¾	1½	Aukett Swanke♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.1
393⅜	247⅜	Balfour Beatty‡	372¾	-2	...	17.6
514	323⅜	**Barratt Devs**	473¾	-3¾	...	7.4
2500	1586½	Bellway‡	2268	-16	...	6.8
4504	3165	**Berkeley**	3975	-27	...	10.3
1426	987	Big Yellow Group	1117	-14	...	7.3
455	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	405	+10	...	32.9
345	218	Boot (Henry)‡	236	-1	...	12.6
536	324¾	**Br Land**	345⅝	-6¾	...	47.3
167½	120	Caledonian Tst♦	160	...	...	31.9
64¾	43¾	Cap & Regnl‡	58⅛	...	...	-0.5
2550	2310	Cardiff Prop‡	2430	+60	...	26.4
25	2½	Carecapital♦	7½	...	...	-0.8
170	106	Clarke T‡	149½	+1¼	...	10.7
291⅜	191⅝	Countryside Partner	229¾	+14	...	16.7
28⅜	6	Craven House♦	13¾	...	...	-0.2
4353	2756½	**CRH**	3928	+35	...	16.3
3022	1876	Derwent London‡	2156	+4	...	9.6
4	3	Dolphin Capital♦	3¾	...	...	-2.6
31½	22	First Prop♦	27½	...	...	...
47½	37½	Fletcher King♦	37½	...	...	...
44	27¼	Foxtons Group‡	37⅜	+⅛	...	...
185⅛	145	Galliford Try	180⅜	-5½	...	40.0
470	252½	Genuit Group	315½	+1½	...	19.1
574	335	Gleeson (MJ)	425	-7	...	6.6
988⅝	630½	Grafton	819½	-12	...	9.5
312¾	205⅜	Grainger‡	247½	-4⅛	...	15.3
658½	409⅛	Great Portland	490⅜	-9⅛	...	-6.1
30½	17⅛	Hammerson	24¾	-¼	...	-2.6
171	101	Harworth Gp‡	120	-2	...	4.1
630	425	Heath (Samuel)♦	425	...	...	8.8
431½	255½	Helical PLC	255½	-21½	...	6.1
1065	865	Highcroft Invs‡	865	...	...	3.7
208⅛	148¼	Ibstock	162	-2⅜	...	21.0
234	176	James Halstead♦‡	215½	+3½	...	22.9
849	591	Keller	704	-7	...	8.1
6786	3903½	Kingspan Group	5499¼	+151⅞	...	21.6
774½	485¼	**Land Sec**	599	-15⅜	...	...
100¼	58	Life Science Reit	74	+1	...	...
25	12	Lon & Assoc	12	...	...	-1.6
261	161¾	Londonmetric Property	172½	-1⅜	...	3.6
61¾	37	Macau Prop Op	60	-¾	...	-7.7
545½	225⅜	Marshalls	293¾	-5⅜	...	10.7
114½	74	Michelmersh♦	92½	...	...	14.7
2120	1392	Morgan Sindall	1830	-8	...	8.9
13900	10800	Mountview	11100	-250	...	13.8
99½	68¼	NewRiver REIT	83	...	...	-2.9
291	195	Palace Capital	227	...	...	10.8
335	260	Panther Securities♦	300	-10	...	2.7
2254	1138½	**Persimmon**	1226	+6½	...	4.9
5½	2	Pires Investments♦	2	...	...	-4.4
65	30	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
148½	98⅝	Primary Health Properties	100	...	...	10.2
38½	28¼	Real Estate Invs♦	30	-½	...	3.9
585	372½	Redrow	488¾	-6⅜	...	6.0
1177	794	Safestore	923½	-1	...	5.2
1190	763½	Savills	919½	+1	...	9.2
6¼	5⅝	Secure Property♦	5⅝	...	...	14.8
1129	694	**Segro**	787⅛	+2⅛	...	2.3
44⅜	27¾	SIG	41⅜	...	...	...
69	37⅜	SigmaRoc♦	58	...	...	...
116⅜	66½	Sirius Real Estate	78½	-⅛	...	6.1
173½	160½	Smart (J)‡	164½	...	...	4.5
50	30½	Steppe Cement♦	37	...	...	8.5
132⅜	85	**Taylor Wimpey**	115⅝	-1¾	...	7.6
178½	129	Town Centre‡	142	+1	...	5.6
1223½	738	Travis Perkins	893½	+3⅛	...	8.7
204¾	125⅝	Tritax Big Box Reit‡	138	+⅜	...	2.5
98¼	57	Tritax Eurobox‡	60	...	...	...
306½	184½	Tyman‡	271½	+½	...	10.7
1207	791½	**Unite**‡	886	...	...	10.3
938½	519½	Vistry Group‡	740	-11	...	6.4
165	91	Warehouse REIT	100	-⅜	...	2.3
722	343⅜	Workspace Grp	498½	+2	...	-7.4
755	622½	Wynnstay Props♦	675	+10	...	4.8

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5¾	1	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
39½	25½	Airea♦	36½	+1	...	13.5
952	740	Anglo-Eastern	820	-42	...	7.5
306	147½	Animalcare♦	181½	...	...	...
2070	1237	**AB Foods**	1861	+23½	...	30.7
121	79	Bakkavor Group‡	91	-3¾	...	9.4
561	432	Barr (AG)‡	510	-6	...	18.1
3⅞	1½	Bidstack Group♦	1⅞	...	...	-1.5
67	24½	Brand Architekts♦	33½	...	...	-1.4
3628	2656	**Brit Amer Tob**	2670	+7	...	9.0
936	707½	Britvic‡	897½	...	...	20.3
2641	1580	**Burberry**	2215	+23	...	19.0
207	131	C&C Grp	142	+⅛	...	-8.4
6⅜	2⅛	Capital Metals♦	3½	...	...	-0.9
145¼	92	Carr's Grp‡	145¼	+¾	...	17.9
535	296	Character Grp♦	303	+1	...	5.4
1640	1070	Churchill China♦‡	1425	...	...	...
2565	1674	**Coca Cola HBC**‡	2422	+31	...	19.3
880	610	Colefax♦	752½	...	...	13.3
3340	2586	Cranswick	3170	-46	...	16.7
329	164	Devro	329	...	...	17.8
3960	3410½	**Diageo**	3498	+23	...	26.9
1⅜	⅜	Distil♦	½	...	...	13.7
1000	780	Evans (M.P.)♦‡	780	-30	...	6.6
103½	68	Finsbury Food♦	93	...	...	11.0
9920	5690	Games Workshop	9435	+140	...	25.9
1229⅞	844¼	Glanbia	1184	...	...	29.2
114½	60¾	Greencore	75¾	-⅛	...	15.1
348	231	Headlam‡	240	+3	...	10.3
1132	500	Hilton Food	732	-13	...	15.2
31½	22	Hornby♦	23	...	...	...
2185	1735½	**Imperial Brands**‡	1735½	+13½	...	5.8
1½	1¼	J Lewis Hford♦	1¼	...	...	7.7
9458⅞	7255¾	Kerry Gp	8177¼	+43⅜	...	22.6
35	15½	McBride	30½	-⅛	...	-5.4
305	205	Mulberry Group♦	255	...	...	10.5
1332½	986½	Nichols♦	1000	+30	...	...
249	165	Norcros	173	-2¼	...	5.4
380½	296	Origin Ents♦	325½	-8⅝	...	10.2
14½	⅛	Pittards♦	6⅜	...	...	3.0
512½	300	Portmeirion♦‡	426	...	...	18.1
⅞	⅝	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
221	170⅜	PZ Cussons	192½	+¾	...	22.2
161	90	REA	90	-5¾	...	-7.1
2⅜	1	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
340	235	Tandem♦‡	240	...	...	3.4
904	507	Treatt	704	-20	...	28.2
3¼	1¾	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2	-¼	...	-1.3
5051	4092½	Unilever (NV)	...	...	...	...
4443½	3475½	**Unilever**‡	4169	+1½	...	21.4
596	317	Victoria♦	492	+9	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
1200	739	Avon Rubber	835	+25	...	...
367½	268½	Babcock	308⅜	+1¾	...	-1.9
1032	714	**BAE**	950⅜	+3	...	17.3
2150	1250	Braime A N/V♦‡	1250	-50	...	14.1
1750	1500	Braime Group♦‡	1750	+100	...	19.7
602½	500	Caffyns	550	...	...	7.9
5	1¼	Cap XX Ld♦	1¼	...	...	-2.6
380	279	Castings	378	+12	...	18.2
5	3	Chamberlin♦	3	-⅛	...	-0.2
36	14	Checkit♦	24½	...	...	-2.9
560	391	Cohort♦	495	-7	...	44.0
400	190	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
1390	1020⅜	Dewhurst♦	1075	...	...	12.3
340	192¼	Dialight	230	...	...	...
1301½	859½	Electrolux 'B'	1178⅞	...	...	8.9
182½	85½	Feedback♦	117½	...	...	...
940	426	Gooch Hsego♦	550	+4	...	40.7
4490	2400	Goodwin	4370	-15	...	24.1
2498	1876½	**Halma**	2395	+23	...	34.6
1456	893	Hill & Smith	1456	+24	...	34.2
121½	71½	Holders Tech♦‡	76	...	...	4.6
2¼	¾	Image Scan♦	2⅛	...	...	12.6
1674	1071	IMI	1609	+19	...	21.9
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
10025	6740	Judges Scientific♦	9300	-10	...	46.9
87	72½	LPA♦	87	+½	...	...
798¾	768⅛	Meggitt	798¾	+⅛	...	...
510⅜	286½	**Melrose**	475	-2⅝	...	...
325	217	Morgan Advanced	285	+3	...	12.0
433	227½	Mpac♦	255	+5	...	6.6
745	260	MS Intl♦	446	...	...	63.7
2855	1720	Oxford Inst	2690	+20	...	36.7
2116⅛	1055⅜	Philips El nv	...	...	...	...
17½	12¼	PipeHawk♦	12½	...	...	26.6
89½	23⅛	Pressure Tech♦	42	...	...	-3.4
4338	3342	Renishaw	3812	+46	...	21.7
31	20½	Renold♦	28⅜	+¼	...	10.1
158	66⅛	**Rolls-Royce**	149	+¼	...	...
1¾	⅝	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
342⅛	229½	Rotork	325½	+3⅛	...	35.3
200	138	SDI Group♦	138	-2	...	22.7
181⅛	111	Senior‡	172	-⅛	...	30.0
66	48	Severfield	64⅛	+¼	...	11.4
15½	6¾	Six Hundred♦	6¾	-1¼	...	39.4
1618⅜	1089¾	SKF B	1357½	+19⅛	...	10.0
300	215	Slingsby (HC)♦	300	...	...	4.9
1797½	1364	**Smiths**	1642	+13½	...	26.1
1435	986	Solid State♦	1115	...	...	26.8
470	324	Somero Enter♦	330	+5	...	7.3
3841	2690	Spectris‡	3701	+46	...	12.1
12350	9130	**Spirax-Sarco**	11095	+125	...	34.9
57½	28½	Surface Trsfms♦	36	...	...	...
3½	1½	Tanfield♦	3¼	+⅜	...	-9.0
440	345	Thorpe FW♦	366	...	...	25.4
2⅝	⅝	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
95½	48½	Transense Tech♦	86	...	...	63.2
3500	3070	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+6	...	37.4
435	284½	Vesuvius‡	410⅛	+3½	...	10.9
1530	659	Videndum	659	-16	...	12.0
323½	202	Volex♦	270½	+1	...	14.7
2021	1328½	**Weir**‡	1733½	+26½	...	29.2
3290	1464	XP Power	2095	-40	...	11.1
160	97½	Zytronic♦	102½	...	...	34.1

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1454	1103	Abcam♦	1226	+123	...	...
316	219½	AdvancedMedical♦‡	230	-8	...	36.1
22	5	Allergy Therap♦#	6¼	+1¼	...	-7.3
150	16½	Angle♦	18¼	...	...	-2.4
603	183½	Anpario♦	183½	-9	...	9.6
12294	9656	**AstraZeneca**	11784	+142	...	...
36	29	Circassia Group♦	34	...	...	34.0
248½	199	**Convatec**	207⅛	-1¾	...	48.3
58⅜	25⅜	Creighton	35	+1	...	6.7
3810	2520	Dechra Pharma	3140	-44	...	46.8
1½	¾	Deltex Medical♦	1¼	-⅛	...	-7.6
23	10½	e-Therapeutics♦	17	+3½	...	...
130	82½	Eco Animal Hlth♦	113½	...	...	13.7
51	24⅝	EKF Diagnostics♦	27½	+⅜	...	7.8
56⅞	28⅛	Futura Medical♦	41⅛	...	...	...
3272	2298	Genus	2502	-14	...	44.5
1820⅝	1296	**GSK**‡	1392⅛	+7½	...	16.0
½	¼	Gunsynd♦	⅜	...	...	3.7
353½	246⅛	**Haleon**	330	+1⅞	...	...
1874	1190½	Hikma Pharms	1851½	+19½	...	13.8
335	134½	Hutchmed China♦	213	+7½	...	...
...	...	Immunodiag Sys♦	378	...	...	...
6⅞	1½	ImmuPharma♦	3	...	...	-0.9
7025	1365	Indivior	1473	-16	...	84.3
105	42	Inspiration Health♦	43½	...	...	6.7
41½	17½	IXICO♦	19½	+1	...	6.2
501½	378⅜	Mediclinic	501	+½	...	31.3

Money

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
3½	1½	N4 Pharma♦	1¾	...	...	-2.0
8394⅜	6627	Novartis	7947¼	+32⅛	...	10.1
4	2¼	Omega Diags♦	2½	...	...	-0.9
11	4¾	Ovoca Bio♦	7½	...	...	-2.1
562	297	Oxford Biomedica	441½	+3½	...	19.8
5	2	Physiomics♦	2⅛	...	...	-8.2
5¼	3¼	Proteome Scies♦	5	+⅛	...	...
6808	5556	**Reckitt Benckiser**	6416	+54	...	...
63½	31⅜	RUA Life Sciences♦	41	...	...	-3.9
223	70	Sareum Hldgs♦	115	...	...	...
1321½	984½	**Smith & Neph**	1225½	+5½	...	27.8
250	203	Spire Hcare‡	229	...	...	...
35	7⅜	Synairgen♦	8⅜	-⅛	...	-0.3
70	42	Tissue Regenix♦	51	...	...	...
46½	15½	Totally♦	19¾	-½	...	31.3
420	295	Tristel♦	340	+2½	...	70.1
25¾	8⅞	ValiRx♦	9¼	...	...	...

Industrials

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
128¾	54⅜	Accsys Tech♦	73	...	...	...
4700¼	3379⅛	BASF	4072⅛	+86¼	...	8.0
5804⅞	4124	Bayer DM50	4722¼	+88½	...	55.1
195	46½	Biome Tech♦	117½	...	...	-3.9
3⅝	1½	Byotrol♦	1⅞	-¼	...	...
7	6¾	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
79	50⅞	Coats Grp	68	-1½	...	15.1
7482	5908	**Croda**‡	6238	+42	...	27.1
1125	575	Cropper (James)♦	880	...	...	26.8
129	87⅝	Elementis	107	-3½	...	...
27½	11	Hardide♦	12½	+¼	...	-2.4
2373	1784	**Johnson Math**	1790½	-10½	...	22.5
1705	1242	**Mondi**	1282½	+13½	...	9.8
100	77½	Robinson♦	93½	...	...	...
368½	241¾	**DS Smith**	312¾	+2¼	...	17.7
747	447	Swire Pacific	551	-7⅛	...	...
19	6¾	Symph Environ♦	7	+⅜	...	...
332¾	88	Synthomer	98⅜	-4	...	2.0
2684½	2050	Takeda Pharm	2609⅞	-19½	...	14.6
7	2¼	Velocys♦	2⅜	...	...	-3.0
1931	1504	Victrex‡	1555	+1	...	18.5
651	425	Wynnstay Group♦	427½	+2½	...	9.8
410	233	Zotefoams‡	371	-5	...	22.3

Leisure

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
210⅜	51⅝	888 Hldgs	72⅜	-2¼	...	5.3
846	542	Accesso Tech♦	706	+1	...	18.5
680	370	Best of the Best♦	565	...	...	6.3
1011½	501⅜	Carnival	797⅛	+18¾	...	-1.2
130½	108	Celtic♦	127½	...	...	12.6
28¼	¾	Cineworld	1	...	...	...
339	215⅛	Domino's Pizza	283	-1½	...	14.4
1587½	1075½	**Entain**	1402	+15	...	31.3
16725	7614	**Flutter Ent**	16085	+170	...	...
32¾	22	Gaming Realms♦	31¼	+⅝	...	...
290	290	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
185	65	Heavitree A♦	110	...	...	6.6
145	120	Hermes Pacific♦	120	...	...	...
5784	4193	**InterContinental Hotels**	5352	+66	...	50.1
1¼	¾	Minoan Gp♦	1⅛	...	...	-8.1
214	102	Mitch & Butlers	207¾	+½	...	...
218	92½	On The Beach	104⅛	+⅛	...	-5.4
1600	1020	PPHE Hotels‡	1090	-10	...	-8.8
112	52⅜	Rank Grp	99	-2	...	13.3
56½	26⅝	Restaurant Gp	45⅞	+½	...	-8.6
50½	30½	Rotala♦	46½	...	...	...
25	15½	Sportech♦	18⅞	+¼	...	...
277⅞	184¾	SSP	263	-1¾	...	-5.1
5¾	1⅞	Tasty♦	3	...	...	4.0
295	65	Tintra♦	102½	-2½	...	-1.8
704⅜	290⅝	Tui	531	+2½	...	-5.5
3⅛	1⅛	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
783½	389¾	Wetherspoon JD	712½	...	...	-6.6
3330	2285	**Whitbread**‡	3257	-15	...	...
1308	870	Young & Co - A♦	1180	+10	...	...
835	564	Young & Co - N/V♦	796	+34	...	...

Media

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
⅝	⅛	7digital Gp♦	⅝	...	...	-5.7
88	52½	Aeorema Comms♦	78½	-1½	...	21.7
48	20½	Altitude Group♦	40	-1	...	...
85½	70½	Arcontech Grp♦	72½	...	...	10.0
315½	176⅛	Ascential	230	-3⅜	...	...
675	486⅛	**Auto Trader**	626⅜	+11⅜	...	30.9
492	366	Bloomsbury Pub	420½	-10½	...	17.3
8	3¼	Bonhill Group♦	5½	...	...	...
172½	71	Catalyst Media♦	137½	-2½	...	...
¼	⅛	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
...	...	Daily Mail‡	270	-2½	...	10.3
150	100	DCD Media♦#	100	-30	...	5.0
64	43	Ebiquity♦	48	...	...	...
1466	1030	Euromoney In Inv	1460	+2	...	...
2006	776	Future	776	+9	...	13.3
1400	930	GlobalData♦	1340	...	...	66.3
120¾	50	Hyve Group	120½	...	...	...
196	46½	IG Design Grp♦	147½	-4	...	21.6
729	501¾	**Informa**	705½	+5¾	...	...
90	55⅛	ITV	71½	-¾	...	7.7
10¼	4⅛	Jaywing♦	4⅝	...	...	...
8⅝	1¾	Live Company Gp♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.4
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-6.0
46½	26½	Merit Grp♦	43	...	...	...
52½	3	Mirada♦	3	...	...	-0.1
68½	42	Mission Group♦	50½	...	...	8.5
280⅜	168⅞	Moneysupermarket	252½	+2⅛	...	25.7
1740⅝	1212	News Corp A	1479¾	+1½	...	24.1
1756¾	1237⅞	News Corp B	1487⅞	+2⅜	...	24.2
1146	755	Next 15 Comms♦	799	-25	...	...
995⅛	734½	**Pearson**	800⅛	-¾	...	38.2
107	69⅛	Photo-Me	107	+5	...	18.6
4⅜	2	Primorus Inv♦	3	...	...	5.4
187½	108½	Quarto	167½	...	...	9.3
124	67	Reach‡	72⅞	+½	...	81.0
1⅜	¾	REACT Grp♦	1⅜	...	...	20.0
2722	2081	**Relx**‡	2487	+37	...	32.8
663	445⅜	**Rightmove**‡	529⅛	+4⅜	...	29.9
140	65	SpaceandPeople♦	100	+7½	...	...
315	245	STV Group‡	246	-4	...	6.0
310	122½	System1 Group♦	180	-5	...	8.6
3009⅜	2283¾	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2548⅞	+29½	...	13.9
2785⅝	2154	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2367⅝	+22⅝	...	12.9
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.0
356	222	Wilmington	291	...	...	18.5
1051½	725¾	**WPP**	873	+7⅛	...	16.6
116½	77½	Zinc Media♦	112½	...	...	-7.1

Natural resources

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1	⅜	ADM Energy♦	⅝	...	...	...
⅛	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
33⅞	17½	AFC Energy♦	17½	...	...	...
...	...	Afentra PLC	...	...	...	...
⅛	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-2.2
¾	⅜	Alien Metals♦	⅜	...	...	...
90⅛	64	Alumina	73	+¼	...	15.2
1¼	⅝	Aminex	1	...	...	-5.8
1¾	⅝	Amur Mins Corp♦	1¾	...	...	...
718509¾	4542½	Anglo Amer Plat	4542½	-13¼	...	3.2
4017½	2278½	**Anglo American**	2318½	+51½	...	4.5
121	64	Anglo Asian Mng♦	106	+½	...	9.2
1805	991½	**Antofagasta**	1389½	+39½	...	14.3
4⅞	2⅞	Arc Minerals♦	3½	...	...	2.5
3⅞	2½	Ariana Res♦	2½	...	...	3.3
¾	⅜	Arkle Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-1.4
3¼	1¼	Armadale Cap♦	1¼	...	...	...
2	⅞	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1	...	...	...
402½	188	Atalaya Mine♦	333	+18	...	4.2
¼	...	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
6	1¾	Beowulf Mining♦	1¾	...	...	-8.0
⅛	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.8
2855	2034	BHP Group	2287	+67	...	10.0
5⅜	1¾	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2¼	...	...	...
21¼	13⅝	Bougainville	19½	-¼	...	...
4¾	1	BowLeven♦	1	...	...	-1.3
567½	363⅞	**BP**‡	476⅞	+1⅞	...	17.3
16⅝	8¾	Cadence Min♦	9¾	...	...	0.9
2⅝	1⅝	Cadogan Petrol	1⅝	...	...	23.6
1350	825	Caledonia Mining♦	1045	+5	...	10.2
555¼	192⅜	Capricorn Energy	197⅜	+⅜	...	1.5
8⅜	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦	6½	+⅛	...	...
125½	74⅜	Centamin	99⅜	-⅜	...	15.4
292½	195½	Cent Asia Metals♦	195½	+⅛	...	5.7
15¼	7⅜	Chaarat Gold♦	11	-⅛	...	...
23	13½	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	15½	-⅛	...	...
6	1¼	China Nonferr Gold♦	1¾	...	...	...
⅜	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-2.2
34½	15¼	Condor Gld♦	27½	-2¼	...	...
1¼	⅛	Corcel♦	¼	...	...	-0.3
10134⅞	90	DRD Gold	90	-1⅛	...	10.6
1¼	¼	ECR Minerals♦	⅜	...	...	-2.5
19	4¾	Edenville Energy♦	5½	...	...	-0.3
1⅜	⅝	Empyrean Energy♦	1	...	...	-7.3
2184	1461	**Endeavour**	2010	+44	...	29.9
32⅝	15⅜	EnQuest	15⅜	...	...	0.9
8	2¼	Eurasia Mining♦	2¾	...	...	...
3	⅞	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1⅜	...	...	12.5
193⅛	97½	Ferrexpo	98⅝	+⅛	...	0.7
968	644	**Fresnillo**‡	656	+3⅜	...	15.5
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
39	18	Galantas Gold♦	18	...	...	-3.0
7¼	2¾	GCM Resources♦	3	...	...	-2.5
58½	22⅝	Gem Diamonds	23⅜	+⅛	...	2.4
28¾	12⅛	Getech♦	13¼	-1	...	-3.1
578	400	**Glencore**‡	422½	+6⅛	...	15.4
½	⅛	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-2.1
133233⅞	1197½	Gold Fields	1197½	-2⅝	...	18.4
12½	7½	Goldplat♦	7¾	-¼	...	5.8
8⅛	2½	Goldstone Res♦	3	...	...	...
13¼	6½	Greatld Gld♦	7⅛	+½	...	...
96½	70	Griffin Mining♦	85⅜	...	...	9.4
310	129⅝	Gulf Keystone	130	+¾	...	8.1
25⅞	5⅝	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	14⅛	...	...	1.1
115¼	51½	Hochschild	72	+3½	...	6.9
168	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	140	+5	...	...
356½	187½	Hunting PLC	201½	...	...	-5.1
106½	14¾	IGas Energy♦	14¾	-¾	...	-0.7
⅜	...	Independ Res♦	...	...	...	...
317	195	Indus Gas♦	200	-6	...	20.7
¾	¼	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-5.2
313½	68½	ITM Power♦	68½	-¼	...	...
15¼	7⅛	Jubilee Metals♦	7⅛	...	...	5.9
2¾	1⅝	Karel Diamd Res♦	2⅝	...	...	...
1	½	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	¾	...	...	-3.4
495	380½	Kenmare Res	434½	-½	...	5.0
27½	5¾	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
23½	11⅛	Landore Res♦	11⅛	-⅞	...	-2.5
½	⅛	Lansdowne O&G♦	⅛	...	...	-4.0
16	12½	Leeds Group♦	12½	...	...	-2.0
8¾	1⅞	Lexington Gold♦	8⅛	...	...	...
21½	3⅛	MC Mining♦	9⅜	...	...	-1.9
2¼	¾	Metals Explorn♦	1½	-⅛	...	2.7
⅝	⅛	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.2
26½	⅛	Nostrum O&G#	10	+¼	...	...
...	...	Oil Search	218⅞	-5⅜	...	60.3
⅛	⅛	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
¼	...	Oriole Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-1.8
⅞	½	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
17⅛	4¼	Orosur Mining♦	4¼	...	...	-6.3
21⅛	12¾	Pan African Res♦	13½	-3⅜	...	4.4
140¼	16⅝	Pantheon Res♦	16⅝	-⅝	...	...
79	20¼	Parkmead Grp♦	21¼	...	...	-1.8
⅝	⅜	Pathfinder Mins♦	⅜	...	...	-3.9
120	64¾	Petra Diamonds	68	+2½	...	2.2
2¾	1¼	Petrel Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-6.8
7	1⅝	Petro Matad♦	4¾	...	...	...
150⅜	46	Petrofac	71⅝	+¼	...	-1.8
1⅛	...	Petroneft Res♦	...	...	...	-0.3
1¾	⅞	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	-⅛	...	1.6
7½	3¾	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+¼	...	-1.6
4½	1⅝	Plexus Holdings♦	2⅞	...	...	-0.7
350	168	Polymetal Intl	180	-10	...	...
698	499	Porvair‡	626	+12	...	24.0
19¼	3¾	Prospex Energy♦	8¾	+¼	...	...
14⅝	8½	Proton Motor Power S♦	9½	-¼	...	-1.7
4	1¾	Providence Res♦	3¼	...	...	29.0
2¾	1	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	1½	-⅛	...	-5.8
27¼	2	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
⅜	⅛	Reabold Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-2.6
⅝	⅛	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.8
6777¾	4632½	Rio Tinto Ltd	5686⅝	+125	...	5.9
6377	4486	**Rio Tinto**	4925	+167	...	5.1
41⅛	19⅞	San Leon Energy♦	27¾	...	...	10.3
½	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	⅜	...	...	...
47	22½	Serabi Gold♦	27¼	...	...	3.7
450	207½	Serica Energy♦	227⅜	+2⅛	...	...
13½	8½	Shanta Gold♦‡	11½	-⅛	...	7.2
2604½	1936⅜	**Shell**‡	2352½	+12	...	12.4
2½	⅞	Sound Energy♦	1⅝	...	...	10.7
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	...
¼	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-3.4
⅝	⅛	Thor Mining♦	¼	...	...	-1.7
5323	3891⅜	Total Eng SE	4947⅛	+157⅞	...	11.3
¼	...	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-0.9
57⅛	22½	Tullow Oil	25⅝	+1	...	2.5
⅛	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-2.0
416	135	URU Metals♦	150	...	...	4.8
⅞	⅛	Vast Res♦	⅝	...	...	-0.1
...	...	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	...	...	-1.8
...	...	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
3¾	2⅛	Westmount Engy♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.4
251⅝	104½	Wood Grp (J)	140¼	-⅝	...	-5.7
6⅝	⅜	Woodbois♦	⅜	...	...	1.8
5¼	1¼	Xtract Resources♦	1½	...	...	-2.7
7¼	3½	Zephyr Energy♦	3½	-⅛	...	-4.5

Professional & support services

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5090	2240	4imprint Grp‡	4450	-50	...	75.1
555	460	Andrews Sykes♦‡	537½	...	...	17.1
5874	3359	**Ashtead**	4921	+85	...	23.9
17½	⅞	Asimilar Group♦	1	...	...	...
120	53	AssetCo♦	53	...	...	0.3
53½	38½	Avisen♦	50½	...	...	...
148	117	Begbies Traynor♦	123½	-1	...	...
207	155	Blancco Tech♦	166	-1½	...	59.5
3225	2575	**Bunzl**‡	3194	+45	...	24.2
42⅝	22⅝	Capita	32¾	+⅜	...	2.5
45	36	CEPS♦	39	...	...	-8.8
150	105½	Christie Group♦	122½	+2½	...	52.1
2235	1641	**Compass**	2216	+8	...	53.9
252	97	CPPGroup♦	191½	...	...	...
75	47¼	Croma Security♦	47½	...	...	6.8
5656	4030	**DCC**‡	4710	+27	...	15.5
104	39	De La Rue	39	-¾	...	5.1
3084	2158	Diploma‡	2954	+34	...	52.8
914	597	Discoverie	787	+3	...	64.5
34½	23½	Driver Group♦	33	...	...	15.7
325½	175⅛	Essentra‡	182⅜	-1½	...	20.4
3160	2285	**Experian**	2828	+50	...	36.2
12380	8680	Ferguson	11870	+190	...	17.5
274	215	FIH Group♦	274	+14	...	...
11	5¼	Grafenia♦	10	...	...	-7.4
588	317	Hargeaves Serv♦	390	+2½	...	4.0
735	450	Impellam Grp♦	702½	+20	...	38.3
19⅜	4	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
4743	3619	**Intertek**‡	4253	+35	...	23.9
251⅜	115⅜	IWG	143	-1⅞	...	-5.4
125⅜	77	Johnson Srvce♦	111	-1⅜	...	69.3
181½	106	Journeo♦	165	...	...	37.0
81⅞	56½	Kier Gp	78⅞	-⅛	...	7.7
1400	1080	Latham (J)♦	1230	+5	...	6.7
1032½	695	Lok'n Store♦‡	918	+8	...	27.8
3750	2300	Lon Security♦	2800	+50	...	15.4
366	220	LSL Prop Services‡	260	-10	...	7.2
125½	86	Macfarlane‡	107	+½	...	12.4
315	90	Maintel Hldgs♦	110	-2½	...	3.3
2200	8¼	Malvern Intl♦	16½	...	...	...
247	182	Mears Group	241	...	...	20.9
608	590	Menzies (John)	607	-1	...	48.0
94⅞	55	Mitie Gp	89⅜	-1¼	...	44.7
13¾	3¾	MobilityOne♦	5	...	...	3.7
56½	25	Newmark Sec♦	53½	...	...	...
6½	3½	Norm Broadbent♦	6½	...	...	...
61½	37	Northern Bear♦	49½	...	...	5.0
286	217	NWF Grp♦	257	-1½	...	...
491½	362⅛	PageGroup‡	442	+1½	...	11.9
68	46	PCI-PAL♦	56½	...	...	...
12	6⅞	Petards♦	7½	+⅜	...	13.6
26½	13	PHSC♦	13½	-½	...	24.5
2¼	⅝	PowerHouse Egy♦	⅝	...	...	-1.1
98	61	Record	85⅛	-2⅜	...	23.4
437½	283½	Redde Northgate	376	-1½	...	9.4
757	555	Renew Hldgs♦	733	-1	...	18.1
851	489	Renewi	537	-34	...	11.3
649⅛	445	**Rentokil**	632¾	+3⅛	...	44.8
466	250	Restore♦	258	+6	...	30.7
600	338½	Ricardo	568	-18	...	50.7
600	408	Robert Walters‡	428	+6	...	9.7
20	11½	Roebuck Food Grp♦	15½	+1	...	2.3
239	96¾	RPS Group	221	-1	...	...
1159	788¾	**RS Group**	803⅛	+5⅜	...	20.3
24	16	RTC Group♦	17	...	...	...
408⅜	238½	RWS Hldgs♦	239⅜	-1¾	...	21.9
440	365	Science Group♦‡	400	...	...	18.4
188¼	145½	Serco‡	145½	-⅛	...	5.9
57½	27½	Smiths News	53	+¾	...	5.1
3596	2452	**Smurfit Kappa**	2966	+30	...	13.5
50	32½	Staffline Gp♦	37	...	...	28.5
484½	317½	SThree‡	382	-1	...	12.3
137½	95	Synectics♦	107½	...	...	...
29⅜	21⅝	Thruvision Group♦	25	...	...	-9.0
94	35	Tribal♦	38⅞	...	...	12.1
86	49	Vianet♦	76½	...	...	...
950	615	Vp	650	+7½	...	16.0
2⅜	1	Westminster♦	1⅛	...	...	-1.4

Real estate

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
162⅝	95½	Shaftesbury Cap	118½	-1⅛	...	34.8

Retailing

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
81¼	37⅞	AO World	65	-⅝	...	...
503⅛	295½	**B&M European**	462	+1¾	...	10.7
42⅝	20¼	Brown (N)♦	27	...	...	7.9
112½	40⅜	Card Factory	92½	-1½	...	...
2192	1549	CVS Group♦	2096	+30	...	58.7
194	104¾	DFS Furn	120	+2	...	6.3
1275	670½	Dunelm	1102	-17	...	14.8
949½	600	**Frasers Group**	672	-11½	...	29.8
2904	1673	Greggs‡	2672	+14	...	23.3
229⅜	124⅝	Halfords	200½	-1⅜	...	6.6
743½	480⅞	Howden Joinery	663½	-2¾	...	12.5
941	666	Inchcape‡	766	-9½	...	25.8
4¼	1⅝	IQ-AI	2⅝	...	...	-7.5
186⅝	89⅛	**JD Sports**	151	+2¼	...	18.2
291½	203	**Kingfisher**‡	231⅛	-1¾	...	5.8
94¼	61½	Lookers‡	83½	+½	...	5.3
184¾	93⅛	Marks & Spencer	179½	-1¾	...	...
11⅛	5¾	Mothercare♦	5¾	-¼	...	-3.6
371	75½	Naked Wines♦	105	...	...	...
7076	4383	**Next**	6400	-20	...	12.2
952½	393	**Ocado**	407	+4	...	...
28⅜	14⅞	Pendragon	17⅝	...	...	5.5
395	257¾	Pets at Home	357¾	+⅛	...	14.6
227⅜	72⅞	Saga	111⅜	+⅜	...	...
289½	169⅞	**Sainsbury's**	275	...	...	23.1
1714	1132½	WH Smith	1522	-59	...	...
27¼	14¼	Sosandar♦	23	...	...	...
1½	1¼	Stanley Gbbns♦	1½	...	...	-1.6
...	...	Studio Retail#	115	-2½	...	2.4
142	69½	Ted Baker	109¾	...	...	...
284½	199⅛	**Tesco**‡	263¾	-1⅛	...	13.4
54	38	Topps Tiles	54	+⅛	...	9.7

Technology

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
108	62½	Access Intell♦	76½	...	...	...
136½	17½	Aferian plc♦	17½	...	...	3.1
185	126	Alfa Financial‡	159	+2	...	24.8
20¼	8¼	Allied Minds	13¾	+3⅛	...	-1.2
430	310	Aptitude Software‡	310	...	...	34.8
265	126½	Bango♦	210	...	...	...
42½	21	BATM Adv Coms	25	+⅞	...	10.4
26½	14¼	Berkeley Res	21⅛	+½	...	-9.0
21½	6	Blackbird♦	6	...	...	-9.5
1¼	¾	CloudCoCo Group♦	1	...	...	-2.5
2624	1810	Computacenter	2340	+34	...	14.5
90½	65½	Concurrent Tech♦	67	...	...	15.9
12¼	5¾	Corero♦	6⅜	...	...	...
2250	1080	Craneware♦	1330	-30	...	60.6
3¼	1¾	Crimson Tide♦	2⅝	...	...	18.0
24	11¼	CyanConn Hldgs♦	16⅛	-⅛	...	...
276½	182½	D4t4 Solutions♦	182½	+½	...	21.6
⅛	...	DeepMatter Gp♦	...	...	...	-0.1
22½	13	Dillistone Group♦	19½	...	...	-5.6
¾	⅛	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-2.2
976	599	FDM Group	668	+4	...	23.1
16¾	9	Filtronic♦	13	+¼	...	35.1
2300	1230	First Derivts♦	1838	+58	...	...
647	281½	GB Group♦	288	+1⅛	...	21.9
180½	136	GreshamTech‡	153	...	...	...
91	24¼	Ilika♦	44½	-1⅞	...	...
132½	79½	Ingenta♦	105½	...	...	61.7
77	38	Intercede♦	52½	+1	...	18.1
200	112	Iomart♦	155	+1½	...	17.0
59⅞	20¾	IQE♦	23½	-½	...	...
152½	112½	K3 Business Tch♦	125	+3½	...	-2.1
1686¼	1053⅞	LG Electronics	1621⅝	+162⅛	...	4.3
¼	⅛	Location Sciences♦	⅛	...	...	-2.9
532	256¼	Micro Focus Intl	532	+½	...	-5.6
70½	45	MTI Wireless♦	49½	...	...	16.4
55¾	17¼	Nanoco Gp	18⅛	...	...	...
110½	62½	Netcall♦	110½	+3½	...	...
51½	35	Northamber♦	38	...	...	...
25¾	10¼	Online Blockchain♦	13½	...	...	-7.1
112½	78½	Oxford Metrics♦	92	...	...	40.0
9	4½	Parity♦	4¾	...	...	-7.0
41½	28½	Pennant Intl♦	37	...	...	...
634½	390¾	Playtech	609½	-15½	...	6.4
394⅛	322	QinetiQ	370⅜	-7½	...	28.9
146	20½	RM	88	...	...	17.6
865	595½	**Sage**	857⅜	+8½	...	32.8
8¼	5¼	Seeing Machines♦	5¾	...	...	...
139	50	Shearwater Grp♦	60½	+3	...	37.4
63	31½	Smartspace S'ware♦	43½	...	...	-4.5
1441	1071	Softcat	1325	+29	...	25.9
286⅛	168	Spirent Comms	179⅞	-⅛	...	16.7
54½	24¾	SRT Marine♦	54½	+2	...	...
610	400¾	Tele. Ericsson	426¼	+7⅛	...	7.7
102½	72½	Touchstar♦	97½	...	...	...
1047½	860	Tracsis♦	935	...	...	...
20½	12¼	Trakm8♦	16	...	...	...
160	81	Triad Grp	150	...	...	16.4
1380	250	Wandisco♦#	1310	...	...	...
916	415	Water Intel♦	445	...	...	24.4
236	144½	Xaar	173	-1	...	...
7¾	⅛	Yourgene♦	⅛	...	...	-0.1
207½	101½	Zoo Digital♦	135	+1	...	...

Telecoms

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
200½	100	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	...	...	...
170⅞	104½	**Airtel Africa**	118⅞	+1	...	10.6
196½	112	**BT Group**	144	-1	...	13.9
87⅝	51	Currys plc	51	-1	...	2.4
1210	1012	Gamma Comms♦	1186	+10	...	21.4
144¼	91	Helios Towers	91	-3⅜	...	-8.2
2215½	1103½	Just Eat T'away	1333	+12	...	-2.8
¼	...	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.4
2¼	⅝	Mobile Tornado♦	1⅝	...	...	-9.7
2500	1548	Telecom Plus	1548	-48	...	39.6
131⅜	79⅜	**Vodafone**	79⅜	-1½	...	...

Transport

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
340	234	Braemar Ship	292	+2	...	9.6
535⅛	285	EasyJet	485⅜	+⅞	...	-3.0
10⅞	4½	Esken Limited	4⅞	...	...	-0.2
139½	93½	FirstGroup	113	-⅜	...	26.9
407	251	Fisher (James)	370½	-4	...	-6.7
173½	93⅝	**International Airlines**	156½	-1	...	-3.4
328⅞	183⅛	IDS	199⅜	+2½	...	2.2
439¼	310¾	Irish Cont Uts‡	404	...	...	...
...	...	Jet2♦	1193	-12	...	-6.4
272½	108¼	Natl Express	108¼	-3¼	...	-6.4
1050	820	Ocean Wilson‡	838	...	...	4.2
105	104¼	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
24	19½	Sutton Harbour♦	20½	-1½	...	...
404½	192⅜	Wincanton	241	+2½	...	6.5
3158	1357½	Wizz Air	2883	-17	...	-6.5

Utilities

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
119¾	67¼	**Centrica**	118⅜	+2⅛	...	11.9
258	248½	ContourGlobal	251	+½	...	28.3
793	473⅜	Drax Group	586¾	-15½	...	43.4
582½	457	Jersey Electricity	477	...	...	9.0
1186½	858⅜	**National Grid**	1089½	+6	...	25.4
9¾	5⅝	OPG Power♦	8½	+¾	...	5.5
1070	755	Pennon	775	-6½	...	56.1
⅝	¼	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
3003	2213	**Severn Trent**	2726	+2	...	...
1900	1428	**SSE**	1833½	-24	...	7.1
1145	828⅛	**United Utilities**	1004½	+3	...	92.1

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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Money

Wall Street

	May 26 close	wkly +/-
3M	96.94	-2.09
Abbott Labs	102.87	-6.06
AbbVie	137.56	-7.55
Accenture	303.60	+13.69
Activision Blizzard	78.66	+0.07
Adobe Sys	415.39	+44.14
Aflac	64.49	-2.39
Agilent Tech	120.42	-8.45
Air Prods & Chm	273.83	-5.08
Albemarle Corporation	203.99	-0.16
Alexion Pharmas	182.50	
Allergan	193.02	
Allstate	109.53	-8.25
Altria	44.61	-0.69
Amazon	120.11	+3.86
Amer Elec Pwr	82.25	-4.31
Amer Express	157.24	+4.29
Amer Tower	182.18	-8.55
Ameren Corp	80.77	-3.35
American Int	54.07	+0.22
American Wtr W	143.46	+2.01
Ameriprise	309.13	+5.26
AmerisrceBerg	168.41	-4.98
Ametek	148.22	+0.65
Amgen	216.93	-6.49
Amphenol	76.61	+0.81
Anadarko Petrlm	72.77	
Analog Devices	176.53	-14.00
Aon Corp	310.67	-16.45
Apple	175.43	+0.27
Applied Mats	136.06	+9.11
Archer Daniels	72.73	-0.50
Arthur J. Gallagher	203.81	-12.26
AT&T	15.50	-0.81
Auto Data Proc	212.48	-3.70
Autodesk	198.90	-1.99
Autozone	2460.79	-192.39
AvalonBay	171.73	-4.51
Baker Hughes	57.68	
Ball Corp	69.49	-11.15
Bank NY Mellon	40.78	-0.11
Bank of America	28.31	+0.20
Bard (CR)	331.05	
Baxter Intl	41.29	-1.70
BB&T	54.24	-0.48
Becton Dickinsn	241.12	-10.76
Berkshire Hath	320.60	-9.79
Biogen Idec	298.66	-9.82
Blackrock	672.30	+5.60
Boeing	203.63	-1.86
Boston Sci	51.06	-2.58
Bristol-Myrs Sq	63.82	-2.02
Broadcom Ord	812.73	+130.48
Brown-Forman- B	61.58	-2.12
Capital One Fin	102.85	+4.92
Cardinal Health	82.83	-3.10
Caterpillar	211.80	-2.98
Celgene	108.24	
Centene	62.72	-2.68
CenterPoint Egy	28.34	-0.25
Cerner	94.92	+0.07
Chevron	154.08	-1.15
Chipotle Mex Grill	2071.02	-35.20
Church & Dwight	93.97	-1.06
Cigna Corp	244.10	-11.03
Cintas	468.72	-1.76
Cisco Systems	49.86	+0.73
Citigroup	44.60	-1.11
Clorox Co	159.09	-7.27
CME	176.67	-5.15
Coca-Cola	60.26	-2.57
Cognizant Tech	62.88	-0.13
Colgate-Palm	76.21	-3.72
Comcast	39.48	-1.70
ConocoPhillips	101.85	-0.75
Consd Edison	92.69	-2.50
Constellation Brs	232.88	-2.41
Corning	31.53	+0.21
Costco Whole	507.26	+10.74
Crown Castle Int	111.76	-1.32
CSX	30.81	-1.50
Cummins	212.64	-4.04
CVS Caremark	67.64	-1.74
Danaher	232.21	+3.88
Darden Rest	161.28	-0.13
Deere&Co	357.21	-6.34
Delta Air Lines	35.89	+0.30
Devon Energy	48.07	-1.13
Digital Realty Tr.	98.89	+8.14
Discover Financial	102.36	+1.62
Dollar General	205.10	-9.98
Dollar Tree	142.45	-17.63
Dominion Res	49.86	-2.26
Dover	137.03	-2.44
Dow Chemical	50.34	-1.61
D.R. Horton	106.71	-3.48
Dr Pepper Snap	123.66	-0.02
DTE Energy	106.51	-2.05
Duke Energy	88.70	-3.81
Eaton	182.46	+8.31
eBay	44.36	+0.88
Ecolab	166.91	-8.36
Edison Intl	65.63	-2.61
Edwards Life	82.01	-5.92
Electronic Arts	126.80	+1.14
Eli Lilly	425.79	-16.59
Emerson Elec	79.51	-2.98
Entergy	96.80	-3.75
EOG Res	110.12	-4.47
Equifax	210.64	+0.52
Equinix	729.15	+5.57
Equity Res	59.64	-1.81
Estee Lauder	194.44	-5.44
Evrsurce Engy	68.69	-4.48
Exelon	39.39	-0.48
Expedtrs Intl	115.51	+0.94
Express Scripts	92.33	
Extra Space Stor	146.58	-1.52
Exxon Mobil	104.97	-1.29
Facebook	196.64	+8.00
Fastenal	55.16	+0.16
Fedex	224.15	-4.93
Fifth Third	25.26	+0.16
First Solar	201.77	-1.76
FirstEnergy	36.71	-1.05
FIS	54.46	-2.38
Fiserv	113.77	-5.77
Ford Motor	12.09	+0.44
Freeport-Mcm	34.77	-0.96
Garmin	103.83	-0.17
Gen Dynamics	205.25	-5.40
Gen Electric	102.74	-1.52
General Mills	84.18	-3.45
General Mtrs	33.29	+0.63
Genuine Parts	157.21	-7.56
Gilead Sciences	77.09	-1.76
Global Payments	99.97	-1.99
Goldman Sachs	332.01	+5.86
Google Class A	124.61	+1.85
Google Class C CS	125.43	+2.18
Grainger (WW)	664.23	-17.55
Halliburton	30.20	+0.03
Harris	189.13	-8.09
Hartford Financial	68.68	-2.55
HCA Hldngs	264.41	-18.06
Hershey	257.72	-8.32
Hess	130.20	-3.35
Hologic	79.03	-2.40
Home Depot	292.83	+1.95
Honeywell Intl	193.75	-3.60
Hormel Foods	38.47	-0.87
HP Ent	15.34	+1.01
HP Inc	31.30	+0.76
Humana	496.60	-16.92
IBM	128.89	+1.63
ICE Group	105.16	-2.87
IFF	78.26	-5.42
Illinois Tool	225.07	-2.97
Illumina	195.89	-8.97
Ingersoll-Rand	58.89	-0.87
Intel	29.00	-0.93
Intuit	418.43	-27.60
Intuitive Surg	306.90	-6.71
JB Hunt Trprt	170.27	+1.90
Johnsn & Johnsn	154.35	-4.56
Johnson Controls	61.88	-1.34
JP Morgan Chase	136.94	-2.24
Kansas City	293.59	
Kellogg	67.67	-1.66
Kimberly-Clark	136.30	-8.73
Kinder Morgan	16.21	-0.31
KLA-Tencor	461.19	+37.55
Kroger	47.31	-2.33
Lab Corp Amer	215.60	-1.22
Lam Research	628.25	+39.39
Lennar	107.45	-6.14
Level 3 Coms	53.63	+0.43
Lockheed Martin	448.45	-6.04
Lowes Cos	206.52	+0.25
LyondellBasell	87.31	-3.58
Marathon Petrol	108.81	-1.50
Marriott Intl	171.76	-6.67
Marsh & McLenn	173.23	-7.31
MartinMarietta	399.16	-9.24
MasterCard	374.37	-11.20
McCormick	86.93	-1.99
McDonald's	286.04	-9.51
McKesson	387.95	-9.72
Medtronic	81.46	-7.87
Merck & Co	111.07	-4.42
Metlife	51.81	+0.23
Microchip	78.32	+0.45
Micron	73.93	+5.76
Microsoft	332.89	+14.55
Mondelez	75.13	-1.93
Monster Bvrge	57.61	-2.07
Moodys	313.00	-2.03
Morgan Stanley	83.90	+1.66
Motorola Sols	284.57	-12.88
M&T Bank Corp	123.60	+1.99
Nasdaq OMX	54.22	-1.10
Netflix	378.88	+13.52
Newmont Mining	40.68	-2.98
NextEra Energy	73.92	-0.56
Nike	107.51	-7.25
Norfolk Sthn	210.57	-7.17
Northrop Grum	438.32	-4.99
Nucor	136.14	-2.53
Nvidia	389.46	+76.82
Occidental Petr	58.94	-0.19
Omnicom	89.95	-3.35
ONEOK	57.30	-1.22
Oracle	104.08	+1.24
O'Reilly	923.00	-31.30
Paccar	71.35	-0.40
Parker-Hannifin	332.88	+0.04
Paychex	108.17	+0.06
Paypal Hldngs	60.22	-0.70
PepsiCo	183.58	-8.26
Pfizer	37.60	+0.83
PG&E	16.52	-0.09
Philip Morris Intl	90.84	-2.35
Phillips66	94.91	-0.03
Pioneer Ntrl Rscs	207.93	-1.01
PNC Finl	118.78	+0.30
PPG Inds	133.73	-8.67
PPL	26.01	-1.05
Price T Rowe	106.63	+0.02
Priceline.com	1905.64	+20.64
Procter & Gmbl	145.40	-7.77
Progressive Cp	128.49	-6.57
Prologis	124.95	+1.89
Prudential Finl	80.14	-1.90
Public Serv Ent	59.57	-2.01
Public Storage	286.69	+1.79
Qualcomm	110.35	+4.49
Quanta Services	174.00	+2.29
Realty Income	58.66	-1.31
Regeneron Pharm	725.05	-34.00
Republic Serv	141.08	-4.01
Rockwell Auto	286.23	+4.92
Rockwell Collins	141.04	
Roper Inds	449.96	-7.76
Ross Stores	103.37	-1.39
RylCaribbean	79.00	-0.60
Salesforce.com	215.44	+5.08
Schlumberger	44.48	-0.79
Schwab (Charles)	53.67	+2.00
Sempra Energy	143.85	-1.97
Sherwin-Williams	229.14	-3.63
Simon Prop	102.36	-3.00
Southern Co	69.47	-1.94
S&P Global	360.78	-4.64
Spectra Engy	60.12	-9.32
Starbucks	98.53	-6.98
State Street	68.47	+0.47
Sthwest Airlines	29.65	+0.17
Stryker	272.58	-12.79
SunTrust Banks	70.13	
Sysco	70.72	-2.41
Target	138.93	-13.35
TE Connectivity	122.78	-1.30
Texas Insts	176.29	+6.18
TheKraftHeinz	38.34	-0.73
Thermo Fisher	522.02	-5.36
TJX	77.00	-2.35
Tractor Supply Co	211.50	-12.73
Transdigm Group	792.49	-30.02
Travelers	172.29	-11.43
TSYS	133.27	
Ulta Salon	420.27	-70.78
Union Pacific	193.10	-5.87
Untd Rentls	350.97	+1.95
UPS	171.57	+0.64
US Bancorp	30.67	+0.56
Utd Health	481.52	+2.70
Utd Tech	86.01	-18.63
Valero Energy	113.82	+2.55
Ventas	42.88	-1.89
VeriSign	225.99	-1.42
Verisk Analyt CS	217.07	-5.05
Verizon Comm	35.00	-1.05
Vertex Pharma	329.99	-11.71
Visa	225.01	-8.30
Vulcan Mats	196.00	-1.22
Walgreens Boots	30.01	-1.27
Wal-Mart	146.42	-3.49
Walt Disney	88.29	-3.06
Waste Mgt	161.28	-4.08
WEC Engy	86.90	-3.02
Wells Fargo	41.23	+1.20
Welltower	52.22	-2.58
Weyerhaeuser	28.25	-1.34
Williams Cos	28.75	-0.49
Xcel Energy	64.32	-1.61
Xilinx	194.92	
Xylem	98.35	-6.64
Yum Brands	129.86	-8.42
Zimmer	127.65	-7.35
Zoetis	164.74	-14.81

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 23	94.690	95.180	94.130	94.710	203797	123043
	SEP 23	94.680	95.220	94.210	94.780	220504	455574
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 23	96.405	96.410	96.395	96.395	88131	539929
	Sep 23	96.105	96.145	96.095	96.100	137802	597985
	Dec 23	96.120	96.190	96.115	96.125	121712	408040
	Mar 24	96.260	96.350	96.255	96.270	98462	375396
	Jun 24	96.455	96.550	96.450	96.465	99607	306941
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
FTSE100	Jun 23	7585.5	7650.5	7561.0	7637.0	91498	603986
	Sep 23	7580.0	7645.0	7580.0	7648.0	58	3132
FTSEurofirst 80	Jun 23				5827.0		
	Sep 23				5869.0		

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Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	33093.34 (+328.69)
Nasdaq Composite	12975.69 (+277.59)
S&P 500	4205.45 (+54.17)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	30916.31 (+115.18)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	18746.92 (-369.01)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	767.86 (+12.65)
Sydney	
AO	7334.50 (+17.80)
Frankfurt	
DAX	15983.97 (+190.17)
Singapore	
Straits	3207.39 (-0.33)
Brussels	
BEL20	3652.16 (+25.09)
Paris	
CAC-40	7319.18 (+89.91)
Zurich	
SMI Index	11434.24 (+108.98)
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	4337.50 (+67.86)
London	
FTSE 100	7627.20 (+56.33)
FTSE 250	18794.09 (-46.66)
FTSE 350	4195.14 (+25.20)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3644.65 (+48.81)
FTSE All-Shares	4152.54 (+24.21)
FTSE Non Financials	5032.49 (+30.17)
techMARK 100	6791.11 (+25.58)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.2353 (+0.0038)
Euro	1.1510 (+0.0028)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	80.08 (+0.16)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	130.43 Apr (2015 = 100)
RPI	372.80 Apr (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	290.10 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	76.39	+0.71
BFOE(Jul)	76.97	+0.68
BFOE(Aug)	77.03	+0.80
WTI(Jul)	72.67	+0.84
WTI(Aug)	72.76	+0.83

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	882.00	885.00	+9.00
Gasoil EEC	696.50	697.50	+13.25
3.5 Fuel Oil	405.00	408.00	+6.00
Naphtha	599.00	612.00	+8.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Jun	691.75-691.25	Sep	688.75-688.25
Jul	686.75-686.50	Oct	691.00-690.50
Aug	686.25-686.00		Volume: 592405

Brent (9.00pm)

Jul	76.78-76.76	Oct	76.24-76.21
Aug	76.81-76.80	Nov	75.89-75.85
Sep	76.60-76.58		Volume: 1929634

LIFFE

Cocoa

Jul	2366-2365	Sep	2165-2154
Sep	2330-2325	Dec	2102-2136
Dec	2284-2278	Mar	2051-2090
Mar	2215-2210		
May	2195-2180		
Jul	2166-2171		Volume: 76675

RobustaCoffee

Jul	2581-2578	Mar	2400-2000
Sep	2540-2530	May	2397-2370
Nov	2474-2470		
Jan	2435-2350		Volume: 13399

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	671.30-669.30
		May	653.40-651.30
Aug	710.40-709.80	Aug	638.20-626.50
Oct	700.40-696.50	Oct	613.00-607.00
Dec	684.90-682.40		Volume: 66630

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Jul	172.00	Nov	192.95	Jan	unq
Mar	unq	May	200.80	Volume: 773	

London Metal Exchange (Official)

Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)		
8081.0-8082.0	8112.0-8113.0	8180.0-8190.0
Lead ($/tonne)		
2058.0-2059.0	2062.0-2063.0	2097.0-2102.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2319.0-2320.0	2336.0-2337.0	2363.0-2368.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2241.0-2242.0	2237.0-2238.0	2400.0-2405.0
Nickel ($/tonne)		
21400.0-21450.0	21590.0-21595.0	22835.0-22885.0
Tin ($/tonne)		15mth
24950.0-25000.0	24700.0-24750.0	24045.0-24095.0

Eurotop 100

	Close	+/-	12mthhigh	12mthlow	Yield	P/E
RWE AG	37.50	-1.40	43.98	34.57		36.74
Swatch Group AG	282.30	+4.00	342.70	215.70	2.16	21.08
AP Moller-Maersk A Dn Kr	11500.00	+390.00	22260.00	11000.00		1.94
AP Moller-Maersk B Dn Kr	11670.00	+415.00	22650.00	11100.00		1.96
ABB Ltd S SF	33.70	+0.52	34.11	23.84	2.53	16.95
Air Liquide Fr €	159.34	+1.60	164.52	114.48	1.87	30.40
Airbus Fr €	125.68	+1.14	131.22	86.52	1.45	23.81
Allianz G €	207.40	+1.80	228.40	156.22		13.55
Anglo American UK p	2322.69	+55.69	4036.00	2263.13		4.59
Anheuser-Busch InBev B €	53.17	+0.16	62.01	45.56	1.41	27.42
Arcelor Mittal	24.31	+0.43	30.99	19.41	0.86	2.12
ASML Holding Nl €	682.10	+29.50	688.00	375.75	0.89	54.44
AstraZeneca UK p	11782.00	+140.00	12828.45	9399.00		1995.26
Atlas Copco A Sw Kr	161.00	+6.25	161.35	25.76		9.98
Atlas Copco B Sw Kr	138.35	+4.95	138.95	22.59		8.58
AXA Fr €	27.10	+0.13	30.34	20.34	6.30	9.43
Banco Santander Es €	3.20	+0.04	3.87	2.32	3.73	6.62
BBVA Es €	6.48	+0.06	7.56	3.97	6.70	9.12
Barclays UK p	157.24	+0.26	198.86	128.12		3.82
BASF G €	46.91	+1.00	53.77	37.90		8.03
Bayer G €	54.40	+1.02	67.49	46.70		55.14
BHP Group UK p	2292.50	+72.50	2862.00	1998.60		10.00
BMW G €	104.46	+1.68	109.84	68.44		5.75
BNP Paribas Fr €	56.31	+0.13	67.02	40.67	6.94	8.38
BP UK p	476.95	+2.00	570.57	359.20		
British Am Tob UK p	2677.50	+14.50	3645.00	2641.00		9.03
BT Group UK p	144.50	-0.60	196.60	22.98		13.99
Centrica UK p	118.15	+1.90	120.70	65.78		11.96
Christian Dior Fr €	800.00	+18.50	872.00	525.00	1.54	30.19
Compagnie de Saint-Gobain	53.53	+0.13	58.54	35.18		13.25
CS Group S SF	0.79	+0.01	6.76	0.66	12.07	
Mercedes-Benz Group AG	71.44	+1.19	75.92	50.19		7.39
Danone Fr €	57.16		61.88	46.76	3.50	20.10
Deutsche Bank G €	9.74	+0.04	12.09	7.25		9.91
Deutsche Telekom G €	21.04	-0.10	23.13	17.35		25.00
Diageo UK p	3498.00	+23.00	3960.00	3413.50		26.91
EON G €	11.14	-0.01	12.29	7.28		6.40
EDF Fr €	12.00		12.05	7.27	2.33	9.54
Enel It €	5.95	+0.07	6.26	3.96	6.63	
Engie (FR)	13.90	-0.05	15.56	10.07	10.04	10.12
ENI It €	13.19	+0.15	14.98	10.45	6.75	
Fresenius Medical Care Ag & Co	73.67	-0.85	83.15	63.51		20.87
GlaxoSmKline UK p	1395.80	+11.20	2753.96	1346.00		16.08
Glencre Xstrata	424.47	+8.07	584.50	395.40		15.47
Heineken NV Nl €	99.56	+0.08	106.30	78.28	1.74	17.84
Henkel KGaA G €	68.20	+0.16	70.10	56.55		18.75
Henkel KGaA Pref G €	76.28	+0.02	78.84	57.30		20.98
Hermes Intl SCA Fr €	1959.20	+44.40	2036.00	957.60	0.68	86.94
HSBC UK p	610.10	+3.70	653.80	434.70		13.34
Iberdrola Es €	11.49	+0.11	11.96	9.09	1.62	20.38
Imperial Tobacco UK p	1724.00	+2.00	2185.00	1713.50		5.80
Inditex Es €	31.13	+0.33	32.10	20.53	2.48	33.94
ING Nl €	12.14	+0.19	13.55	8.43	4.68	10.20
Intesa Sanpaolo It €	2.25	-0.01	2.60	1.58	7.28	
Linde G €	334.00	+0.70	345.00	261.20		53.65
Lloyds Bkg Gp UK p	45.51	-0.33	54.33	38.51		6.32
L'Oreal Fr €	411.00	+4.35	442.60	300.45	1.48	51.76
LVMH Fr €	843.50	+20.10	904.60	535.00	1.46	36.50
Munich Re G €	334.00	+1.70	342.90	212.70		16.50
Natl Grid UK p	1089.50	+6.00	1229.21	844.29		25.40
Nestle S SF	112.30	+1.02	118.74	103.60		
Novartis S SF	88.91	+0.36	93.95	73.33	3.61	10.13
Orange	11.39	-0.05	11.87	9.08	6.12	3908.06
Pernod Ricard NV Fr €	210.30	+1.50	218.00	166.60	1.97	32.82
Philips Elect Nl €	18.20	+0.38	24.48	12.13	4.77	28.09
Prudential UK p	1125.50	+16.00	1336.00	782.40		18.27
Reckitt Benckiser UK p	6498.00	+6.00	8020.00	5782.00		
Richemont S SF	149.70	+3.05	161.10	91.80	1.53	37.42
Rio Tinto UK p	4929.50	+171.50	6329.00	4424.50		5.15
Roche Hldgs S SF	314.80	+1.60	409.60	267.00	3.03	22.11
Rolls-Royce UK p	149.05	+0.25	160.00	64.44		101.39
Royal Bank Scot UK p	120.90	-0.45	265.00	100.34		4.76
Shell	2355.50	+15.00	2613.50	1908.60		12.40
Sanofi-Aventis Fr €	99.40	+0.90	105.18	76.45	3.38	20.77
SAP G €	122.64	+1.84	125.10	79.58		28.43
Schneider Electric Fr €	164.00	+2.78	165.44	110.02	1.95	29.90
Siemens G €	156.68	+3.04	161.02	93.67		24.36
Standard Chartered UK p	649.60	+5.80	797.40	515.60		14.56
Swatch Gp BR S SF	282.30	+4.00	342.70	215.70	2.16	21.08
Swiss Re AG S SF	91.34	+1.22	99.68	68.16	6.38	23.13
Telefonica Es €	3.93		5.06	3.22	7.58	2.97
Tenaris SA It €	11.98	+0.11	17.83	10.95	4.05	
Tesco UK p	263.80	-1.20	307.23	194.35		13.43
TotalEnergies	39.69	+0.87	42.19	24.51		7.83
UBS AG S SF	17.92	+0.25	20.85	13.87	2.77	8.77
Unilever NV Nl €	48.01	+0.11	50.93	40.78	3.56	24.64
Vinci Fr €	108.36	+0.56	112.40	80.84	3.71	24.84
Vivendi Fr €	8.50	-0.02	11.45	7.59	2.93	
Vodafone Group UK p	79.63	-1.43	132.04	78.44		
Volkswagen G €	147.15	+1.20	217.00	143.45		5.14
Volvo B Sw Kr	204.05	+3.00	219.75	154.28		12.34
Zurich Fin S SF	425.60	+4.20	458.30	384.70	5.70	14.87

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 4.50 ECB Refi 2.50 US Fed Fund 4.50-4.75

Halifax Mortgage Rate 3.99

Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 4.480; 3 mth 4.847. Sell: 1 mth 4.140; 3 mth 4.480

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Interbank Rates	4.2013	0.000	4.7517	4.7447	0.00
Eurodollar Deps	5.18-5.61	0.00-0.00	5.04-5.04	4.67-4.67	3.82-3.82

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.5511-8.5833	8.5771-8.5783	121ds	391ds
Euro	1.1526-1.1481	1.1517-1.1516	10pr	32pr
Montreal	1.6795-1.6868	1.6811-1.6814	2ds	11ds
New York	1.2309-1.2394	1.2344-1.2344	8pr	20pr
Oslo	13.590-13.696	13.694-13.700	124ds	393ds
Stockholm	13.255-13.352	13.352-13.355	221ds	650ds
Tokyo	172.22-173.51	173.47-173.48	70ds	224ds
Zurich	1.1145-1.1188	1.1178-1.1179	31ds	98ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

FTSE volumes

(000s)

3i	897
abrdn	2,481
Admiral	406
Airtel Africa PLC	2,073
Ang Am	2,235
Antofagasta	566
Ashtead	706
AB Foods	521
AstraZeneca	942
Auto Trader	2,868
Aviva	10,160
B&M European	2,272
BAE Sys	4,351
Barclays	19,876
Barratt Devs	4,165
	1,339
Berkeley	360
BP	22,605
Brit Amer Tob	2,921
Br Land	2,772
BT Group	13,344
Bunzl	668
Burberry Grp	1,094
Centrica	33,306
Coca Cola HBC	662
Compass	1,555
Convatec	5,849
CRH	937
Croda	212
DCC	116
Diageo	2,027
Endeavour Mining PLC	948
Entain	665
Experian	1,180
F&C Investment Tr	357
Flutter Ent	126
Frasers Group	482
Fresnillo	433
Glencore	25,360
GlaxoSmKline	5,845
	15,242
Halma	1,446
Hargreaves L	674
	317
HSBC	11,849
Imperial Brands	2,164
Informa	2,681
Intercont Htls	445
Intl Cons Air	8,351
Intertek	396
JD Sports	12,026
Johnson Math	624
Kingfisher	5,872
Land Sec	1,814
Legal & Gen	14,243
Lloyds Bkg Gp	150,633
Lond Stk Ex Gp	769
M&G	6,657
Melrose	3,773
Mondi	796
Natl Grid	4,852
NatWest Gr	29,310
Next	367
Ocado Gp	2,225
Pearson	1,849
Pershing Sq	86
Persimmon	1,326
Phoenix Gp	1,228
Prudential	2,639
Reckitt Benck	782
Relx	1,522
Rentokil Itl	6,162
Rightmove	6,203
Rio Tinto	2,155
Rolls-Royce	14,364
	1,221
Sage Gp	3,509
Sainsbury J	2,140
Schroders	1,217
Scot Mtge	1,881
Segro	1,949
Severn Trent	365
Shell PLC	7,130
Smith & Neph	2,811
Smith (DS)	2,951
Smiths	731
Smurfit Kappa	108
Spirax-Sarco	151
SSE	2,688
St James Place	1,133
Stand Chart	6,221
Taylor Wimpey	14,352
Tesco	13,210
Unilever	2,035
	327
Utd Utilities	1,383
Vodafone Gp	93,417
Weir	302
Whitbread	766
WPP	1,114

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	4.87	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Gold/precious metals

Bullion: Open $1941.12

Close $1945.57-1945.84 **High** $1956.69

Low $1937.61

AM $1962.30 **PM** $1948.25

Platinum $1092.00 (£884.63)

Silver $23.31 (£18.89)

Palladium $1721.11 (£1394.27)

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5347-1.5349
Canada	1.3619-1.3620
Denmark	6.9487-6.9492
Euro	0.9330-0.9331
Hong Kong	7.8342-7.8345
Japan	140.55-140.55
Malaysia	4.5985-4.6035
Norway	11.094-11.098
Singapore	1.3527-1.3529
Sweden	10.816-10.820
Switzerland	0.9056-0.9056

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	290.99-291.02
Australia dollar	1.8944-1.8946
Bahrain dinar	0.4618-0.4687
Brazil real	6.1614-6.1767
Euro	1.1517-1.1518
Hong Kong dollar	9.6703-9.6713
India rupee	101.93-101.93
Indonesia rupiah	18500-18504
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3784-0.3808
Malaysia ringgit	5.6763-5.6825
New Zealand dollar	2.0408-2.0413
Singapore dollar	1.6697-1.6700
S Africa rand	24.236-24.248
U A E dirham	4.5286-4.5291

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.895	
Canada $	1.683	
Denmark Kr	8.581	+0.02
Euro €	1.152	
Hong Kong $	9.662	
Hungary	427.007	-1.86
Indonesia	18443.154	+2.98
Israel Shk	4.593	
Japan Yen	173.265	+0.83
New Zealand $	2.041	
Norway Kr	13.663	+0.05
Poland	5.216	+0.04
Russia	98.536	-0.17
S Africa Rd	24.158	-0.10
Sweden Kr	13.321	-0.02
Switzerland Fr	1.119	
Turkey Lira	24.640	+0.05
USA $	1.233	

Rates supplied by Morningstar

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ABBEY LIFE
01202 292373
80 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Ser 4	3815.90	4016.70	-22.00	...
Custodian S4	557.30	586.60	-8.60	...
Equity Ser 4	781.20	822.30	-13.90	...
Ethical S4	422.20	444.40	-11.20	...
European S4	971.70	1022.80	-20.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	767.40	807.80	-16.50	...
High Inc Ser 4	2618.70	2756.60	-50.90	...
International S4	808.40	850.90	-8.20	...
Japan Ser 4	547.60	576.40	-4.10	...
Man Ser 4	2277.30	2397.20	-30.50	...
Money Ser 4	533.50	561.50	+0.20	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	984.20	1036.00	...	...
Protected Gth S4	213.80	225.00	...	...

Fomerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fund	2939.90	3111.00	-32.20	...
European Fund	5085.60	5381.60	-90.00	...
Fixed Intl	853.60	903.30	-16.30	...
Income Fund	3232.80	3421.00	-58.50	...
International	2184.60	2311.70	-18.30	...
Managed Series A	2140.00	2264.50	-25.90	...
Managed Units	3905.40	4111.00	-47.20	...
Money Series A	484.70	512.90	+0.10	...
Money Units	684.40	720.50	+0.10	...
Property Series A	1358.20	1437.30	...	...
Property Units	2510.60	2642.80	+0.10	...
Smaller Cos	2716.90	2875.00	-43.50	...

Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	359.50	378.50	+0.10	...
Financial Ser 1	253.80	267.20	-2.90	...
Fixed Interest	569.30	599.20	-12.20	...
Managed	2101.10	2211.70	-26.20	...
Mngd Growth	803.50	845.80	-8.20	...
Property	801.70	843.90	-0.10	...
TSB Intl	1546.20	1627.60	-15.80	...

AEGON SCOTTISH EQUITABLE
08456 100010
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	2113.44	2224.67	-8.40	...
Cash	279.92	294.65	+0.12	...
Distribution	93.11	98.01	-1.74	...
Ethical	651.15	685.42	-14.79	...
European	1356.57	1427.97	-21.36	...
Fixed Interest	451.75	475.53	-13.10	...
Global	374.50	394.21	-3.42	...
International	1129.69	1189.15	-9.48	...
Japan	445.83	469.29	-5.46	...
Mixed	942.41	992.01	-12.33	...
Pacific	1530.59	1611.15	-14.79	...
Technology	5151.88	5423.04	+17.42	...
UK Equity	909.54	957.41	-18.50	...

ALBA LIFE
50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR
0141 248 2000
Formerly Britannia
Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European	1630.90	1716.70	-22.50	...
Far East	616.40	648.90	-6.10	...
Fixed Interest	762.50	802.60	-14.90	...
International	1408.90	1483.00	-9.70	...
Japan	725.20	763.40	-7.30	...
Managed Fund	1486.70	1564.90	-15.50	...
Money Market	405.30	426.60	+0.20	...
North America	1407.20	1481.20	-2.50	...
Property	982.10	1033.80	+0.10	...
UK Equity	2656.10	2795.90	-39.30	...

Pensions

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	1868.40	1966.80	-32.10	...
European	2066.10	2174.80	-36.10	...
Far Eastern	496.10	522.20	-6.10	...
Fixed Interest	770.90	811.50	-20.00	...
International	1213.20	1277.10	-10.40	...
Japan	352.70	371.30	-4.30	...
Managed	1052.50	1107.90	-9.10	...
Money Market	480.70	506.00	+0.20	...
North America	2073.70	2182.80	-4.70	...
Property	897.40	944.70	...	...

AXA SUN LIFE
PO Box 1810, Bristol BS99 5SN
AXA Assurance - 02476 235500
Sun Life - 0117 989 3000
AXA Equity & Law - 02476 235400
Life Assnce - AXA Equity & Law Series 6. 1% AMC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balced Ser 6	2593.30	2729.70	-13.10	...
Distribution Ser 6	92.50	97.40	-1.00	...
Europe Ser 6	2115.50	2226.80	-17.30	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	4983.70	5246.00	-63.50	...
Property Ser 6	1577.50	1660.50	+0.50	...
UK Equities Ser 6	4085.90	4301.00	-48.80	...

Life Funds - Sun Life (inc Birmingham Midshires)& AXA Assurance 1% AMC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Acc	474.90	499.90	-0.10	...
Deffrd Dist	695.10	731.60	-7.40	...
Distribution Fund	337.80	355.60	-3.60	...
Equity Acc	5975.40	6289.90	-71.30	...
European	999.10	1051.60	-8.10	...
Far Eastern Acc	2244.80	2362.90	+12.20	...
Fixed Int Acc	905.50	953.20	-17.90	...
Global Eqty Acc	2615.10	2752.80	+38.50	...
Japan Acc	377.40	397.20	+2.40	...
Managed Acc	3178.60	3345.90	-16.10	...
North Amer Acc	3118.50	3282.60	+48.00	...
Pacific Acc	1670.20	1758.10	+8.30	...
Property Acc	1204.10	1267.40	+0.40	...

BARCLAYS LIFE ASSURANCE CO LTD
0845 603 5000
Level 12, 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
500 Accum	1473.40	1550.94	-15.10	...
America Acc	2776.73	2922.88	-5.18	...
Comb Inc Acc	2698.33	2840.35	-14.34	...
Equity Acc	3938.52	4145.81	-40.80	...
Far East Gwth	1268.46	1335.22	+11.38	...
Gilt 2 Init	203.10	213.79	-4.51	...
Gilt Edged Acc	827.26	870.80	-17.81	...
Inter 2 Init	484.13	509.61	-1.03	...
International Acc	1970.61	2074.33	-2.88	...
Japan Acc	458.93	483.09	+3.90	...
Managed 2 Init	549.42	578.34	-3.29	...
Managed Acc	2228.83	2346.14	-11.84	...
Managed Alpha	1684.39	1773.04	-17.27	...
Money Acc	435.91	458.85	+0.16	...
Prop 2 Init	215.65	227.00	-0.01	...
Property Acc	872.96	918.90	+0.57	...
UK Growth Acc	1243.70	1309.15	-12.86	...
Univ Tech Acc	860.18	905.46	-1.26	...

& AXA Assurance 1% AM

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity 2 Init	964.95	1015.74	-10.66	...

CANADA LIFE
01707 651122
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	320.20	337.00	-0.10	...
CLife Euro Mgd	1684.00	1772.00	-44.00	...
CLife Intl Fd	1662.00	1749.00	-16.00	...
Deposit Fund	524.60	552.20	+0.10	...
Equity	1174.00	1235.00	-17.00	...
Equity Fund	3081.00	3243.00	-68.00	...
European	1933.00	2034.00	-40.00	...
Fixed Interest	910.10	957.90	-31.00	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	631.20	664.40	+5.30	...
Gilt Edged Fd	1113.00	1171.00	-38.00	...
International	2626.00	2764.00	-11.00	...
Intl Mgd	3536.00	3722.00	-14.00	...
Investment Fd	1466.00	1539.00	-25.00	...
Japanese	386.30	406.60	-7.90	...
Managed	1291.00	1358.00	-9.00	...
Managed Fund	2700.00	2842.00	-27.00	...
ML Intl Fxd Int	697.00	733.60	-0.30	...
Money	538.70	567.00	+0.20	...
Multiple Inv	3424.00	3604.00	-38.00	...
North Amer	2326.00	2448.00	+5.00	...
Property	1020.00	1073.00	+2.00	...
Property Fund	1880.00	1978.00	+1.00	...
UK Equity	4699.00	4946.00	-127.00	...
UK Property	1330.00	1400.00	...	...

CLERICAL MEDICAL INVESTMENT GROUP
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0117 9290566
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	298.53	314.24	+0.15	...
Dist Acc S2	200.62	200.62	-3.64	...
Fidelity Bal	1162.33	1223.51	-13.02	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	475.72	500.75	-8.90	...
Non Eqty	386.93	407.29	-4.19	...
Nth American	2992.68	3150.19	-23.45	...
Property	658.94	693.62	-0.70	...
UK Gwth	1316.80	1386.11	-27.01	...
With Prof Bd S2	122.50	122.50	...	...
With Profits Flex	128.70	128.70	...	...
With Profits Reg	404.80	426.20	+0.10	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	340.46	358.37	+0.23	...
European	2106.76	2217.64	-35.63	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	531.24	559.20	-12.56	...
Halifax	142.88	150.40	...	...
Nth American	4567.19	4807.56	-23.15	...
PP Bal Pens	1163.17	1224.38	-15.22	...
PP Caut Pens	375.47	395.23	-6.12	...
PP UK Gth Pens	1147.16	1207.54	-24.84	...
PP UK Prop Pens	714.25	751.84	-0.61	...
With Profits Reg	737.80	776.70	+0.60	...
With Profits Spec	731.00	769.50	+0.60	...

COUNTRYWIDE ASSURED
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR
CA Funds 0800 262536

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Life	222.70	234.40	+0.10	...
Deposit Pen	312.50	328.90	+0.10	...
Intl Life	995.00	1047.30	-1.90	...
Intl Pen	1365.00	1436.80	-7.50	...
Mgd Life	785.10	826.40	-11.80	...
Mgd Pen	1168.70	1230.20	-17.30	...
UK Eqty Life	851.10	895.80	-15.50	...
UK Eqty Pen	1099.80	1157.60	-27.70	...

CWA Series Funds 0870 600 0014

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fd	1825.10	1921.20	-4.00	...
Glob Cash	366.50	385.80	+0.10	...
Glob Eqty	3448.60	3630.10	+8.50	...
Glob Fxd Int	1255.60	1321.70	-32.20	...
Glob Mgd	2367.60	2492.20	-19.40	...
Glob Prop	780.30	821.40	+0.20	...
Managed Fd	2958.70	3114.40	-24.20	...
Property Fd	641.50	675.30	+0.20	...

FRIENDS PROVIDENT
01722 413366
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	326.20	343.40	-0.10	...
European	1573.80	1656.60	-15.10	...
Fixed Inter Life	646.30	680.30	-12.60	...
Index Linked	539.40	567.80	-14.00	...
Managed	1129.20	1188.60	-6.80	...
North American	1220.00	1284.20	+1.90	...
Overseas Equity	1792.50	1886.90	+5.10	...
Pacific Basin	568.90	598.80	-0.80	...
Property	674.60	710.10	+3.70	...
Stewardship	1741.40	1833.10	-44.00	...
UK Equity	1801.10	1895.80	-31.70	...

Formerly London & Manchester Assurance

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-6.50	...
Equity Life ‡	...	...	-34.10	...
Fixed Interest ‡	...	...	-13.40	...
Fxd Int Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-2.60	...
Gtd Dep Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-0.10	...
Guaranteed Deposit ‡	...	...	...	...
Inter Life ‡	...	...	+4.70	...
Intl Ex Cap ‡	...	...	+0.60	...
Prop Ex Cap ‡	...	...	+0.50	...
Prop Life ‡	...	...	+3.10	...

FP Life Assurance ex NM

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	3271.30	3443.50	+4.60	...
Deposit	545.80	574.50	-0.10	...
European	3830.30	4031.90	-35.70	...
Fixed Interest	1347.70	1418.70	-26.30	...
Income Acc	4038.40	4250.90	-14.00	...
Income Dist	680.80	716.60	-2.50	...
International	1775.20	1868.70	+4.70	...
Managed	2522.80	2655.50	-15.40	...
Mixed	1776.00	1869.50	-17.90	...
Property	1898.50	1998.40	+10.30	...
Singapore & Mal	1241.90	1307.20	-6.00	...
Tokyo Fund	1156.60	1217.50	+5.50	...
UK Equity	2490.10	2621.10	-44.20	...

Friends Prov (London & Manchester) Ass Ltd Fd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Capital Gth Acc ‡	...	...	+10.90	...
Flexible Acc ‡	...	...	-10.30	...
Flexible Cap ‡	...	...	-2.10	...
Inv Trust Acc ‡	...	...	-12.60	...
Inv Trust Cap ‡	...	...	-2.80	...
Moneymaker Acc ‡	...	...	+3.00	...

GUARDIAN
01253 733151
Ballam Rd, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire FY8 4JZ

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	441.50	464.70	+0.10	...
Equity Life	4661.80	4907.10	-93.00	...
European	697.50	734.20	-4.70	...
Fixed Interest	1597.40	1681.50	-32.40	...
Index Linked	603.50	635.30	-12.20	...
Inter Life	2787.40	2934.10	-18.90	...
Managed Life	2719.20	2862.30	-29.40	...
North American	1432.30	1507.60	-9.70	...
Pacific	864.70	910.20	-5.90	...
Prop Life	1033.10	1087.50	-11.20	...

HALIFAX LIFE LTD
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	98.95	104.16	-0.81	...
Deposit	36.08	37.98	...	...
Foundation	102.56	107.96	-0.86	...
Opportunity	119.24	125.51	-1.11	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced S2	101.39	106.72	-0.97	...
Deposit S2	41.68	43.87	...	...
Foundation S2	102.50	107.90	-1.02	...
Opportunity S2	119.39	125.68	-1.34	...

INVESCO FUNDS MGMT LTD
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS 020 7710 4567
Formerly GT Global Fund Mgmt Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Plan Far East	554.30	583.40	...	...
Plan Wwide	924.50	973.20	-0.10	...

LEGAL & GENERAL INVESTMENT MGMT
0203 1243000
One Coleman Street, EC2R 5AA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
B Soc Lnkd Init	136.20	143.40	...	...
Brit Opps Int	221.20	232.80	-3.70	...
British Opp	807.40	849.90	-15.80	...
Building Soc Linked	283.40	298.30	...	...
Cash	443.30	466.60	+0.10	...
Cash Initial	119.10	125.40	-0.30	...
Equity	4761.40	5012.00	-82.10	...
Equity Initial	1073.10	1129.60	-14.50	...
Fixed Initial	463.80	488.20	+3.70	...
Fixed Interest	1306.10	1374.80	-27.40	...
Index Linked Gilt	600.10	631.70	-14.10	...
Index Lkd	270.30	284.50	+0.60	...
International	2411.50	2538.50	-5.30	...
Intl Initial	537.00	565.30	-6.40	...
Life Property	1405.60	1479.60	+0.80	...
Managed	3064.30	3225.60	-36.80	...
Managed Initial	770.70	811.30	-3.70	...
Property Initial	349.80	368.20	-0.60	...

LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP
Barnett Way, Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 3RZ
01452 371371 For further prices 0800 7315139
Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Aggressive Mgd 4	719.00	756.80	-2.20	...
Balanced Mgd 3	1623.30	1708.70	-22.70	...
Cautious Mgd 2	490.90	516.70	-1.90	...
European	843.50	887.80	-14.60	...
Far Eastern	1699.40	1788.80	-18.10	...
Framlington	215.60	227.00	+0.40	...
Green	639.30	672.90	-6.60	...
International	623.20	656.00	-6.30	...
Japan	300.00	315.70	-5.90	...
North Amer	4100.60	4316.40	+7.20	...
Perpetual	468.00	492.60	-1.30	...
Schroders	1479.10	1556.90	+14.40	...
Select Mgd	147.80	155.60	-0.30	...
UK Eqty Inc	1540.30	1621.30	-39.50	...
UK Equity Gwth	2240.50	2358.40	-43.30	...
UK Fxd Int	484.40	509.80	-13.80	...

Pension

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Aggressive Mgd 4	1003.20	1055.90	-3.70	...
Balanced Mgd 3	3687.30	3881.30	-57.90	...
Cautious Mgd 2	815.90	858.80	-3.90	...
European	1320.70	1390.20	-27.40	...
Far Eastern	2681.20	2822.30	-34.10	...
Framlington	258.10	271.70	+0.80	...
Green	1032.30	1086.60	-12.60	...
International	918.80	967.10	-10.60	...
Japan	375.90	395.60	-7.80	...
North Amer	11860.50	12484.70	+22.70	...
Perpetual	566.20	595.90	-1.90	...
Schroders	2846.70	2996.50	+33.90	...
Select Mgd	158.90	167.30	-0.30	...
UK Eqty Gwth	3981.40	4190.90	-94.40	...
UK Eqty Inc	2512.60	2644.80	-64.20	...
UK Fxd Int	1036.10	1090.60	-29.70	...

LLOYDS TSB LIFE LTD
01634 834000
Mountbatten Hse, Chatham, Kent
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	1659.00	1746.30	-15.60	...
Managed	3639.50	3639.50	-28.90	...
Income	3359.40	3536.20	-44.20	...
Managed Inv	1887.40	1986.70	-15.20	...

Life Funds-Series Two-Current Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	3290.80	3464.00	-7.20	...
Balanced	2522.20	2655.00	-34.50	...
Cash	416.80	438.80	+0.20	...
European Gth	897.90	945.20	-8.20	...
Fixed Interest	711.80	749.30	-16.60	...
German Growth	1675.60	1763.80	-34.80	...
Income	3101.30	3264.60	-41.10	...
Japan Growth	330.70	348.10	-1.40	...
Managed Inv	2054.30	2162.40	-16.40	...
Pacific Basin	1363.50	1435.30	-17.90	...
Property	1551.20	1632.80	-1.60	...
Smllr Cos Recov	4730.70	4979.70	-53.70	...
Worldwide Gth	2025.60	2132.20	-14.50	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Pens	2002.70	2108.10	-4.90	...
Cash Pen	315.10	331.60	+0.20	...
European Pen	1674.40	1762.50	-18.00	...
Far East Pen	577.50	607.90	-8.20	...
Fixed Int Pen	498.40	524.70	-14.60	...
FTSE 100	398.40	419.40	-4.90	...
Managed Pen	1005.80	1058.70	-9.10	...
Property Pen	945.60	995.40	-0.90	...
UK Equity Pen	786.40	827.80	-10.80	...

LONDON LIFE
0117 984 7777
Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3AL

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	515.20	515.20	+0.30	...
Deposit A	295.30	310.90	+0.10	...
Deposit P	675.60	675.60	+0.30	...
Equity	4163.60	4163.60	-79.90	...
Equity A	925.50	974.30	-17.80	...
Equity P	3649.00	3649.00	-87.00	...
Fixed Int A	460.60	484.90	-8.90	...
Fixed Int P	1639.90	1639.90	-42.70	...
Fixed Interest	1083.50	1083.50	-20.90	...
Index Stock A	498.60	524.90	-11.70	...
Index Stock P	821.10	821.10	-28.40	...
Indexed Stock	664.60	664.60	-15.60	...
International	1469.00	1469.00	-15.40	...
International A	879.40	925.70	-9.20	...
International P	1938.20	1938.20	-25.10	...
Mixed	2371.50	2371.50	-28.20	...
Mixed A	746.80	786.20	-8.90	...
Mixed P	2365.00	2365.00	-32.50	...
Property	787.90	787.90	+0.30	...
Property A	337.90	355.70	+0.10	...
Property P	620.40	620.40	+0.30	...

MERCHANT INVESTORS ASSURANCE CO LTD
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Far East	735.70	774.40	-5.30	...
Gilt Edged	1232.40	1297.30	-39.90	...
Interest Fund	565.20	594.90	+0.20	...
Intl Equity	2074.00	2183.20	-15.40	...
Managed Fd	1229.70	1294.40	-9.10	...
North American	784.00	825.30	-3.20	...
Property	1410.40	1484.60	-2.70	...
UK Equity	1099.70	1157.60	-18.30	...

MGM ASSURANCE
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY 01903 836000

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	114.48	120.50	-0.08	...
Deposit Acc	375.88	395.66	+0.24	...
Fixed Interest	387.54	407.93	-3.32	...
Fixed Interest Acc	1102.00	1160.00	-22.72	...
Managed	483.36	508.80	-9.19	...
Managed Acc	1546.33	1627.72	-15.20	...
Property	250.17	263.34	-0.42	...
Property Acc	821.18	864.40	-0.06	...

NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD
PO Box 886, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Growth Mgd Pens	567.24	597.09	-4.60	...

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP
01603 622200

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Fund	615.03	647.41	+0.37	...
Eqity Fund	16271.36	17127.74	-157.54	...
Fixed Int Fd	1558.54	1640.57	-36.93	...
Higher Inc Plus	218.19	229.67	-2.08	...
Intl Fund	1292.99	1361.04	-3.83	...
Managed Fund	6366.10	6701.16	-40.94	...
Property Fd	2421.22	2548.65	+1.20	...

Formerly Commercial Union

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	311.20	327.60	+0.10	...
Fxd Int	492.80	518.70	-11.70	...
Index-Lnkd	499.50	525.80	-15.10	...
Int Equity	1420.70	1495.40	-4.30	...
Managed	1450.80	1527.20	-9.50	...
Property	821.60	864.90	+0.30	...
UK Equity	1968.60	2072.30	-19.30	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	...	...	-10.20	...
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	...	...	+9.70	...

Formerly General Accident

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	1476.40	1554.10	-2.70	...
Cash Deposit	263.80	277.60	+0.20	...
Conv Life	431.60	454.20	...	...
European	1165.20	1226.50	-7.60	...
Fixed Int	413.80	435.60	-9.90	...
Index-Linked	485.00	510.50	-14.60	...
International	881.90	928.30	-5.50	...
Japan	417.90	439.90	+2.80	...
Japan Smllr Cos	427.50	450.00	+2.90	...
Managed	733.20	771.80	-4.80	...
Pacific Fund	991.50	1043.70	+10.40	...
Property	596.50	627.90	+0.20	...
UK Equity	1127.00	1186.40	-11.10	...
Unitised Profit	413.20	434.90	+0.30	...

Formerly Provident Mutual

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Initial	87.00	91.60	...	...
Deposit Ord	324.90	342.00	+0.10	...
Equity Init	776.50	817.30	-8.10	...
Equity Ord	2942.70	3097.50	-28.70	...
Fixed Int Init	167.70	176.60	-4.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	624.80	657.70	-14.90	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	178.80	188.20	-5.50	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	610.30	642.40	-18.30	...
Managed Initial	461.20	485.40	-3.20	...
Managed Ord	1729.10	1820.10	-11.20	...
Oseas Equity Init	467.10	491.70	-1.70	...
Oseas Equity Ord	1853.50	1951.10	-5.60	...
Property Init	257.10	270.60	...	...
Property Ord	956.80	1007.10	+0.40	...

NPI
020 7477 5567
55 Moorgate, London EC2

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Americas	2543.30	2677.20	-11.30	...
Deposit	364.00	383.20	+0.10	...
Far East	1673.10	1761.20	-10.70	...
Fixed Interest	886.00	932.70	-16.20	...
Indexed Gilt	638.40	672.00	-14.60	...
Managed	1682.10	1770.70	-18.10	...
Overseas Equity	2366.30	2490.90	-23.60	...
UK Equity	2515.50	2647.90	-46.50	...

PEARL
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY 01733 470 470

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Inv Equity	5864.70	6173.40	-108.50	...
Inv Managed	3838.80	4040.90	-42.70	...
Inv Prop Ac Grs	873.40	919.40	+0.50	...
Inv Prop Dist	276.40	291.00	+0.20	...
Ret Managed	4532.60	4771.20	-64.20	...

PHOENIX LIFE LTD
Edward Pavilion, Liverpool L3 4SL 0151 239 3000
For further fund prices please ring: 0800 731 2031
For further fund prices please ring 0800 731 2031
Broker Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Moneyhill Grth	510.43	537.29	+2.58	...

Lifestyle Bond Funds (Post 29/1/01)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cautious Mgd	249.40	249.40	-3.40	...
Deposit	153.70	153.70	...	...
Equity	269.80	269.80	-4.80	...
Equity Inc	298.80	298.80	-6.40	...
European	360.60	360.60	-4.40	...
Eurotech	90.10	90.10	-0.20	...
Far East	414.20	414.20	-1.40	...
Fixed Int	191.40	191.40	-3.90	...
FTSE All Share Tkr	293.20	293.20	-5.20	...
Income Dist I	109.00	109.00	-4.00	...
Income Dist II	109.00	109.00	-2.20	...
International	313.70	313.70	-2.30	...
Japan Grth	210.70	210.70	-1.50	...
Managed	278.20	278.20	-3.40	...
North America	476.40	476.40	-3.00	...
Pacific Grth	634.70	634.70	-0.60	...
Property	347.20	347.20	+0.30	...
UK Leader	282.10	282.10	-4.70	...
UK Smlr Cos	293.00	293.00	-5.00	...
With Profits	157.58	157.58	+0.10	...

Other Life & Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Pens Unit W Prof	248.75	261.85	+0.21	...
With Profits Bd	192.76	192.76	+0.13	...

Pensions Solution Funds (Post 6/4/2001)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Grth	278.50	278.50	-4.80	...
Cash Deposit	164.10	164.10	+0.10	...
Equity	276.90	276.90	-6.20	...
Equity Inc	307.50	307.50	-7.40	...
European	428.30	428.30	-6.60	...
Eurotech	173.80	173.80	+4.40	...
Far East	497.50	497.50	-2.00	...
Fixed Int	211.70	211.70	-6.00	...
FTSE All Share Tkr	329.70	329.70	-6.80	...
Index Linked	254.20	254.20	-8.50	...
International	378.70	378.70	-3.20	...
Managed Grth	305.30	305.30	-4.60	...
Pens Protector	198.00	198.00	-9.00	...
Property	447.10	447.10	+0.50	...
UK Leader	306.50	306.50	-6.20	...
Unitised W Prof	210.28	210.28	+0.20	...

PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FUNDS
0345 601601
55 King's Road, Reading, RG1 3AH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Fund ‡	...	...	-9.00	...
N American Fd ‡	...	...	+14.00	...
Strategic Fund	644.30	678.20	-11.00	...

Scottish Amicable Life Fds (First Series)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund ‡	...	...	+0.30	...
Equity Fund ‡	...	...	-75.10	...
Fixed Interest ‡	...	...	-33.30	...
Intl Fund ‡	...	...	-6.20	...
Managed Fund ‡	...	...	-20.30	...
Property Fund ‡	...	...	-0.50	...

PRUDENTIAL LIFE FUNDS
01786 448844
PO Box 14962, Craigforth, Stirling, FK9 4ZD
Others

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
BonusBond	255.20	268.70	-5.30	...
Cap Gteed Bd	390.40	410.90	+1.20	...
Prud Inher Bd (Cap) ‡	...	...	-2.00	...
Prud Inher Bd (Inc) ‡	...	...	+0.60	...

Scottish Amicable Life Fds (First Series)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	374.00	393.70	+0.20	...
Equity	2521.60	2654.30	-29.20	...
Fixed Interest	848.00	892.70	-24.50	...
Index-Linked	540.30	568.80	-21.90	...
International	1970.50	2074.30	-4.40	...
Managed	2004.10	2109.60	-12.40	...
Property	1075.70	1132.30	-0.50	...

The M & G Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Bond Acc	1351.10	1418.80	-21.40	...
Deposit Bond Acc ‡	...	...	+0.30	...
Equity Bond Acc	5163.40	5421.70	-56.10	...
Euro Smlr Cos	209.30	219.90	-21.90	...
European Bd Acc	2153.30	2261.00	-31.50	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	4369.80	4588.40	-44.90	...
Gbl Basics Bd Acc	1161.30	1219.40	+16.90	...
Gilt Bond Acc ‡	...	...	-26.60	...
High Yield Bond	453.20	476.00	-4.80	...
Index-Lnkd Gt Bd	375.60	394.40	-6.10	...
International Bd	5839.90	6132.00	+2.80	...
Japan Bond Acc	494.70	519.60	-1.50	...
Japan Sm Cos Acc	235.80	247.70	-3.80	...
Managed Bond Acc	3634.20	3816.00	-22.30	...
Prop Bond Acc	1506.10	1581.50	-0.80	...
Rec Bond Acc ‡	...	...	-25.60	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	1300.20	1365.30	-20.40	...

PRUDENTIAL PENSION FUNDS
Scottish Amicable Non Series A

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
100% Safeguard	155.80	164.00	...	...
95% Safeguard	171.90	180.90	+1.80	...

SAVE & PROSPER INSURANCE AND PENSIONS
St James's House, 27-43 Eastern Rd, Romford RM1 3NH
Customer Helpline: 0845 3000144

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Inv Fund	349.80	368.20	-5.10	...
Deposit Fund (2)	649.70	683.90	+0.30	...
Gilt Fund	1354.60	1425.90	-33.90	...
Global Equity Fd	1628.90	1714.60	-3.30	...
Property Fund (46)	283.20	298.10	...	...

SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS
0131 225 2211
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	1773.10	1866.50	-0.90	...
Deposit	315.10	331.70	+0.10	...
European	2890.40	3042.60	-42.80	...
Fixed Interest	650.70	685.00	-14.40	...
Global Mgd	1456.90	1533.60	-9.20	...
Index Linked	657.40	692.10	-18.30	...
Managed	1322.60	1392.30	-3.60	...
Pacific	1153.90	1214.70	-7.70	...
Pen Worldwide	510.70	537.60	-2.60	...
Property	930.80	979.80	+0.60	...
UK Equity	1707.30	1797.20	-29.10	...
Worldwide	444.50	468.00	-1.70	...

SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE
0141 248 6321
301 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund	286.50	301.60	+0.10	...
European Fund	2156.40	2269.80	-29.70	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	499.60	525.80	-10.10	...
Growth Fund	848.20	892.80	-7.70	...
International Fd	1259.00	1325.30	-8.50	...
North American	2241.90	2359.90	-4.10	...
Opportunity Fd	847.60	892.20	-7.30	...
Safety Fund	606.20	638.10	-6.30	...
UK Equity	959.80	1010.30	-16.70	...

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION
0131 556 9181
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	303.80	319.80	+0.10	...
Equity	893.80	940.80	-14.70	...
Fixed Interest	653.80	688.20	-12.60	...
Index Linked	483.60	509.10	-10.90	...
International	1052.30	1107.70	-7.10	...
Managed	875.70	921.80	-8.00	...
Property	587.60	618.50	+0.20	...

Formerly Prolific

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Adventurous Mg	860.50	905.80	-6.80	...
Bal Gwth Mngd	2654.90	2794.70	-24.70	...
Cash Fund	550.20	579.20	+0.20	...
Cautious Mngd	377.00	396.90	-3.90	...
Equity Fund	3687.00	3881.10	-24.30	...
Equity Inc Dist	154.60	162.80	-2.90	...
European	844.60	889.10	-11.50	...
Extra Income Fd	1407.30	1481.40	-24.00	...
Far East	2103.00	2213.70	-20.40	...
Fxd Interest Fund	1081.60	1138.60	-21.80	...
High Income	3065.30	3226.70	-53.60	...
International	1263.30	1329.80	-8.70	...
Managed Dist	132.30	139.30	-1.70	...
North American	3714.90	3910.50	-6.80	...
Property Fund	886.00	932.70	+0.30	...
Technology	6992.00	7360.00	+91.00	...
UK Mid Cap	3364.00	3541.10	-74.80	...

Henderson Investment Bonds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Fund	373.70	393.40	+0.10	...
European Fund	1385.50	1458.50	-18.90	...
Far East Fund	2066.40	2175.20	-20.10	...
Fixed Interest	52.50	55.30	-1.10	...
Global Managed	1532.10	1612.80	-14.20	...
North America	1660.10	1747.50	-2.90	...
UK Equity Fd	975.80	1027.20	-19.90	...

SCOTTISH WIDOWS GROUP
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund	365.10	384.30	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	2423.00	2550.50	-33.00	...
Fixed Interest Fd	876.90	923.00	-20.30	...
Indexed Stock Fd	607.60	639.60	-18.70	...
International Fd	2410.20	2537.00	-13.20	...
Inv Cash	555.50	584.70	+0.40	...
Inv Pol 1	5493.20	5493.20	+24.40	...
Inv Pol 2	4649.30	4894.00	+20.40	...
Inv Pol 3	3831.50	4033.10	+16.50	...
Mixed Fund	1944.80	2047.10	-14.40	...
Property Fund	915.60	963.80	-1.00	...

SKANDIA LIFE ASSURANCE CO LTD
01703 334411
Skandia House, Portland Terrace Southampton SO9 7BX

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc	947.70	997.50	+4.90	...
Equity Acc	2047.50	2155.30	-43.30	...
Global Acc	812.50	855.20	-1.20	...
Property	580.30	610.80	+0.40	...

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO
Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	439.20	...	+0.10	...
Equity ‡	4624.20	...	-105.20	...
European ‡	1012.90	...	-15.00	...
Far East ‡	532.50	...	-3.10	...
Fixed Interest ‡	954.30	...	-25.60	...
Index Linked ‡	573.70	...	-19.40	...
International ‡	2825.70	...	-23.70	...
Managed ‡	3040.40	...	-39.00	...
Nth American ‡	1055.30	...	-4.60	...
Property ‡	834.00	...	+0.30	...

Pensions (Series 4)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	135.70	...	...	...
Equity ‡	250.20	...	-3.10	...
European ‡	308.50	...	-2.00	...
Far East ‡	282.40	...	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest ‡	211.50	...	-5.40	...
Index Linked ‡	212.10	...	-8.60	...
International ‡	353.90	...	-1.50	...
Managed ‡	279.10	...	-2.30	...
Nth American ‡	400.30	...	-2.00	...
Property ‡	254.60	...	+0.10	...
Stock Exchange ‡	361.60	...	-1.80	...

SUN LIFE OF CANADA
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ
Dealing: 01256 841414

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Account	7542.60	7542.60	-145.90	...
Equity Fund Acc	2840.90	2990.40	-55.20	...
Equity II	6584.80	6931.30	-129.20	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	717.50	755.20	-20.60	...
Growth Acc	8953.10	8953.10	-173.20	...
Indx-Lnkd Scs Acc	499.00	525.20	-21.10	...
Managed Account ‡	...	...	-59.00	...
Managed IV	3836.70	4038.60	-54.20	...
Mngd Fund Acc	1681.70	1770.20	-23.50	...
Money Fund Acc	341.80	359.70	+0.10	...
Pens Equity	1861.70	1959.60	-44.80	...
Pens Fixed Int	922.20	970.70	-26.40	...
Pens Guarantee	1526.30	1606.60	+1.40	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	634.70	668.10	-26.80	...
Pens Intl	1313.10	1382.20	-13.30	...
Pens Mngd Acct	4383.20	4613.80	-69.20	...
Pens Money	439.40	462.50	+0.20	...
Pens Property	1816.90	1912.50	-2.40	...
Pers Pens Acct ‡	...	...	-149.30	...
Prop Fund Acc	1414.40	1488.80	-2.00	...

TESCO PERSONAL FINANCIAL LIFE LTD
0845 845 5555
PO Box 23042, Edinburgh EH3 8YG

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Growth	288.90	288.90	-2.30	...
Intl Growth	437.00	437.00	-3.20	...
UK Growth	283.00	283.00	-3.20	...

WINDSOR LIFE ASSUR CO LTD
01952 292929
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire
Formerly AEtna
1982 Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Deposit	332.80	350.30	+0.10	...
Far East Equity	1681.30	1769.80	-3.70	...
Fixed	637.60	671.20	-14.40	...
Index-Linked Fd	592.20	623.30	-15.90	...
Managed	1488.60	1566.90	-16.10	...
N Amer Equity	2348.80	2472.50	-14.20	...
Property	482.70	508.10	+0.30	...
Special Opp	2028.50	2135.20	-32.60	...
UK Equity	1628.70	1714.40	-32.00	...

Formerly AEGON Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	2075.80	2196.60	-22.40	...
Fixed Interest	591.30	625.70	-13.40	...
International	2424.60	2565.70	-19.70	...
Money	401.30	424.70	+0.10	...
Property	1216.00	1286.80	+0.80	...
UK Equity	2694.80	2851.60	-53.00	...

Formerly Crown

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Life Equity Acc	4108.40	4324.60	-80.60	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	745.00	784.20	-16.90	...
Life High Inc Acc	3366.10	3543.30	-62.80	...
Life Intl Acc	2943.70	3098.60	-23.80	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	3637.50	3829.00	-39.40	...
Life Managed Acc	2628.00	2766.30	-28.60	...
Life Money Acc	479.60	504.80	+0.10	...
Life Property Acc	712.70	750.20	+0.40	...

Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bear	62.97	66.28	-1.30	...
Bull	75.70	79.68	-0.83	...
Deposit	22.04	23.20	+0.01	...
Gilt Edged	35.07	36.92	-0.80	...
Owl	91.26	96.06	-1.81	...
Squirrel	29.06	30.59	+0.01	...
Stag	91.99	96.83	-1.49	...

Pensions

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bear	106.20	111.80	-2.70	...
Bull	118.30	124.50	-1.50	...
Deposit	35.28	37.14	...	...
Gilt Edged	55.11	58.01	-1.57	...
Owl	138.50	145.80	-3.20	...
Squirrel	47.16	49.64	+0.01	...
Stag	150.70	158.70	-2.50	...

Pre 1982 Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
3-Way Fund	3015.70	3015.70	-32.50	...

Gresham

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American & Genrl	4689.30	4936.10	-28.10	...
Capital Fund	2549.30	2683.40	-50.10	...
Equity Fund	2904.10	3056.90	-57.10	...
Fixed Interest	599.30	630.90	-13.60	...
Income	999.60	1052.30	-19.70	...
International Gth	3911.00	4116.90	-31.90	...
Japan & General	618.70	651.30	-3.60	...
Managed Bond	3329.60	3504.90	-36.10	...
Money Fund	525.40	553.00	...	...
Property Fund	1133.10	1192.70	+0.80	...
Recovery Fund	2676.20	2817.10	-42.90	...

WINTERTHUR LIFE UK LIMITED
01256 470707
Winterthur Way, Basingstoke RG21 6SZ
Formerly Colonial

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	285.70	...	...	...
Cash Inv Pens ‡	532.70	...	-0.10	...
Cash Pens ‡	146.40	...	-0.10	...
Equity ‡	1403.90	...	-0.30	...
Equity Inv Pens	9314.30	9804.50	-128.00	...
Equity Pens Cap	2344.10	2467.50	-33.80	...
Fxd Int ‡	1003.90	...	-7.20	...
Fxd Int Inv Pens ‡	2451.20	...	-12.30	...
Fxd Int Pens Cap ‡	677.60	...	-3.30	...
Idx Lk Inv Pens ‡	1479.60	...	...	...
Idx Lk Pens Cap ‡	408.40	...	-0.40	...
Key ‡	...	...	-3.60	...
Managed	1314.00	1383.20	-9.70	...
Mngd Inv Pens	3595.00	3784.20	-23.60	...
Mngd Pens Cap	906.00	953.60	-6.50	...
Pacemaker ‡	...	...	-6.90	...

ZURICH ASSURANCE LTD
0845 300 2332
UK Life Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	10845.70	11416.50	-90.90	...
Managed (1)	1092.40	1149.90	-10.40	...
Managed (2)	830.00	873.70	-7.90	...
Managed (3) ‡	648.50	...	-6.00	...
Mangd Gen 4	155.90	164.10	-1.60	...
Property	1873.60	1972.20	+1.20	...
Property (1)	393.00	413.70	+0.20	...
Property (2) ‡	428.30	...	+0.40	...

Pension

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Managed (1)	1545.80	1627.20	-21.10	...
Equity Acc	30512.80	32118.70	-323.10	...
Managed Acc	16747.20	17628.60	-222.10	...
Property (1)	725.00	763.20	+0.50	...
Property (2) ‡	771.30	...	+0.60	...
Property Acc	8645.10	9100.10	+6.10	...
With Profs (5) ‡	241.50	...	+0.20	...
With Profs (6) ‡	212.10	...	+0.10	...

Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Managed (2) ‡	808.30	...	-10.80	...

British funds

Index-linked

Stock Outstanding(£)		Stock	Price (£)	Wkly +/-	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
389.95	359.04	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	374.15	+ .02	1.45	2.83
109.93	99.11	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	99.11	- .02	...	1.22
114.15	96.90	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	97.83	- .01	...	0.91
124.91	99.85	Tr IL 1¼% 27	102.45	- .05	1.33	0.69
119.45	93.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	97.16	- .04	...	0.68
120.23	92.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	96.70	+ ...	...	0.71
378.34	301.39	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	331.44	+ .05	1.95	0.92
125.96	90.61	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	96.44	+ .04	...	0.57
141.12	99.08	Tr IL 1¼% 32	105.41	+ .04	1.19	0.66
137.22	92.56	Tr IL 0¾% 34	99.24	+ .06	...	0.82
289.48	206.76	Tr IL 2% 35 *	233.72	+ .36	1.04	1.02
133.35	82.01	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	89.73	+ .08	...	0.94
153.04	94.08	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	101.87	+ .05	1.16	0.99
135.83	78.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	86.14	- .14	...	1.08
147.71	84.60	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	92.73	- .21	...	1.10
140.04	75.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	83.55	- .20	...	1.13
153.67	82.66	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	90.80	- .21	0.69	1.15
141.59	72.26	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	79.76	- .26	...	1.23
143.76	70.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	77.58	- .32	...	1.26
165.56	80.78	Tr IL 0¾% 47	89.29	- .36	0.86	1.26
147.02	66.79	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	75.67	- .34	...	1.25
162.14	72.64	Tr IL 0½% 50	83.04	- .37	...	1.25
156.46	65.69	Tr IL 0¼% 52	76.52	- .39	...	1.22
204.53	88.77	Tr IL 1¼% 55	102.02	- .46	1.35	1.18
157.91	60.50	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	71.92	- .34	...	1.14
160.28	60.14	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	71.27	- .40	...	1.12
179.30	64.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	77.91	- .51	...	1.07
176.34	55.87	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	69.52	- .46	...	1.01
184.78	54.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	69.01	- .40	...	0.98
204.82	55.40	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	71.98	- .29	...	0.81

Longs (Over 15 years)

Stock Outstanding(£)		Stock	Price (£)	Wkly +/-	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
150.52	63.35	Tr 0⅛% 51	73.91	- .38	...	1.24
79.76	44.40	Tr 1¼% 51	47.23	- .08	...	4.62
134.46	82.51	Tr 3¾% 52	85.84	- .13	...	4.64
85.11	46.78	Tr 1½% 53	49.61	- .07	...	4.61
87.57	48.25	Tr 1⅝% 54	50.88	- .09	...	4.60
149.95	90.79	Tr 4¼% 55	93.96	- .15	4.52	4.61
90.62	49.39	Tr 1¾% 57	51.78	- .13	...	4.54
149.40	87.32	Tr 4% 60	90.13	- .19	...	4.56
58.15	26.21	Tr 0½% 61	28.20	- .12	...	4.38
112.91	60.88	Tr 2½% 65	62.63	- .19	...	4.48
143.13	79.01	Tr 3½% 68	80.88	- .26	...	4.49
88.38	42.99	Tr 1⅝% 71	44.97	- .15	...	4.37
73.21	32.96	Tr 1⅛% 73	35.02	- .09	...	4.28
103.74	85.32	Tr 3¾% 53	85.32	- .15	...	4.66
135.50	98.36	Tr 4¾% 38	101.89	+ .11	4.66	4.58
84.78	58.05	Tr 1⅛% 39	61.43	- .04	...	4.61
129.29	92.08	Tr 4¼% 39	95.89	- .07	4.43	4.61
130.61	91.30	Tr 4¼% 40	95.57	- .07	...	4.62
84.61	54.72	Tr 1¼% 41	58.56	- .04	...	4.62
117.07	76.78	Tr 3¼% 44	81.27	- .17	...	4.67
137.24	93.79	Tr 4½% 42	98.22	- .07	4.58	4.64
122.03	79.61	Tr 3½% 45	84.05	- .15	...	4.68
137.84	89.35	Tr 4¼% 46	93.91	- .18	4.53	4.68
75.20	43.93	Tr 0⅞% 46	47.40	- .09	...	4.66
86.08	51.06	Tr 1½% 47	54.44	- .11	...	4.66
90.81	53.78	Tr 1¾% 49	56.86	- .09	...	4.65
141.67	89.75	Tr 4¼% 49	93.67	- .12	4.54	4.67
67.42	35.82	Tr 0⅝% 50	38.51	- .08	...	4.59

Mediums (5-15 years)

Stock Outstanding(£)		Stock	Price (£)	Wkly +/-	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
103.82	97.21	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	98.17	+ .05	...	4.67
98.68	85.65	Tr 1¼% 27	88.24	+ .08	...	4.38
113.79	98.23	Tr 4¼% 27	99.38	+ .09	4.28	4.40
92.68	79.15	Tr 0⅛% 28	82.31	+ .09	...	4.35
100.63	84.72	Tr 1⅝% 28	87.30	+ .08	...	4.29
94.88	84.28	Tr 0⅜% 26	86.87	+ .08	...	4.59
99.95	89.28	Tr 1½% 26	91.39	+ .10	...	4.46
126.69	107.13	Tr 6% 28	108.05	+ .09	5.55	4.34
92.99	77.61	Tr 0½% 29	80.68	+ .13	...	4.39
95.06	78.21	Tr 0⅞% 29	81.34	+ .14	...	4.24
90.09	72.39	Tr 0⅜% 30	75.66	+ .07	...	4.24
124.13	101.89	Tr 4¾% 30	103.32	+ .05	4.60	4.23
87.42	69.25	Tr 0¼% 31	72.47	+ .08	...	4.28
92.63	73.06	Tr 1% 32	76.28	+ .07	...	4.31
122.11	98.13	Tr 4¼% 32	100.00	+ .06	4.25	4.25
101.14	91.30	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	91.37	+ .07	...	4.35
89.47	68.57	Tr 0⅞% 33	71.57	+ .06	...	4.37
126.68	98.89	Tr 4½% 34	100.79	+ .13	4.46	4.41
82.71	61.24	Tr 0⅝% 35	64.24	+ .11	...	4.47
125.01	94.91	Tr 4¼% 36	97.74	+ .14	4.35	4.48
94.18	67.54	Tr 1¾% 37	70.74	+ .09	...	4.56
104.43	...	Tr 3¾% 38	91.00	+ .12	...	4.60

Shorts (under 5 years)

Stock Outstanding(£)		Stock	Price (£)	Wkly +/-	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
101.61	93.15	Tr 2% 25	94.43	+ .07	...	4.61
100.88	96.83	Tr 3½% 25	96.87	+ .05	...	4.90
95.25	86.33	Tr 0⅛% 26	89.23	+ .08	...	4.45
97.57	90.15	Tr 0⅝% 25	92.60	+ .08	...	4.50
109.35	100.36	Tr 5% 25	100.39	+ .03	4.98	4.76
96.60	90.04	Tr 0¼% 25	92.62	+ .08	...	4.91
102.75	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	97.50	+ .06	...	4.80
99.46	97.34	Tr 0¾% 23	99.46	+ .05	...	4.30
100.99	98.04	Tr 2¼% 23	99.36	+ .04	...	4.59
97.79	94.34	Tr 0⅛% 24	96.94	+ .07	...	4.81
99.20	94.79	Tr 1% 24	96.65	+ .07	...	4.90

* maturities as having a 3-month indexation lag and which trade on a real clean price basis, excluding inflation adjustment charge

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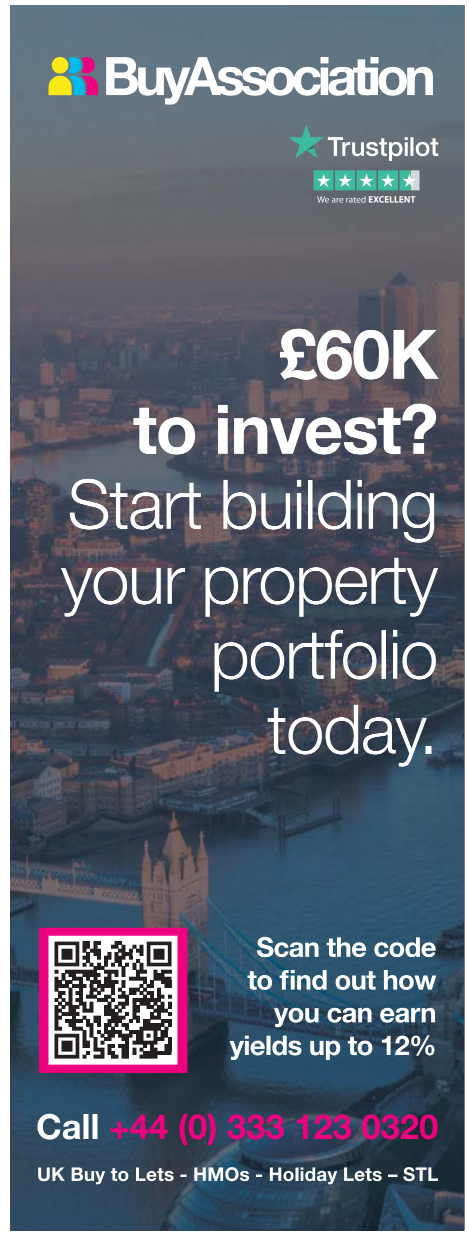


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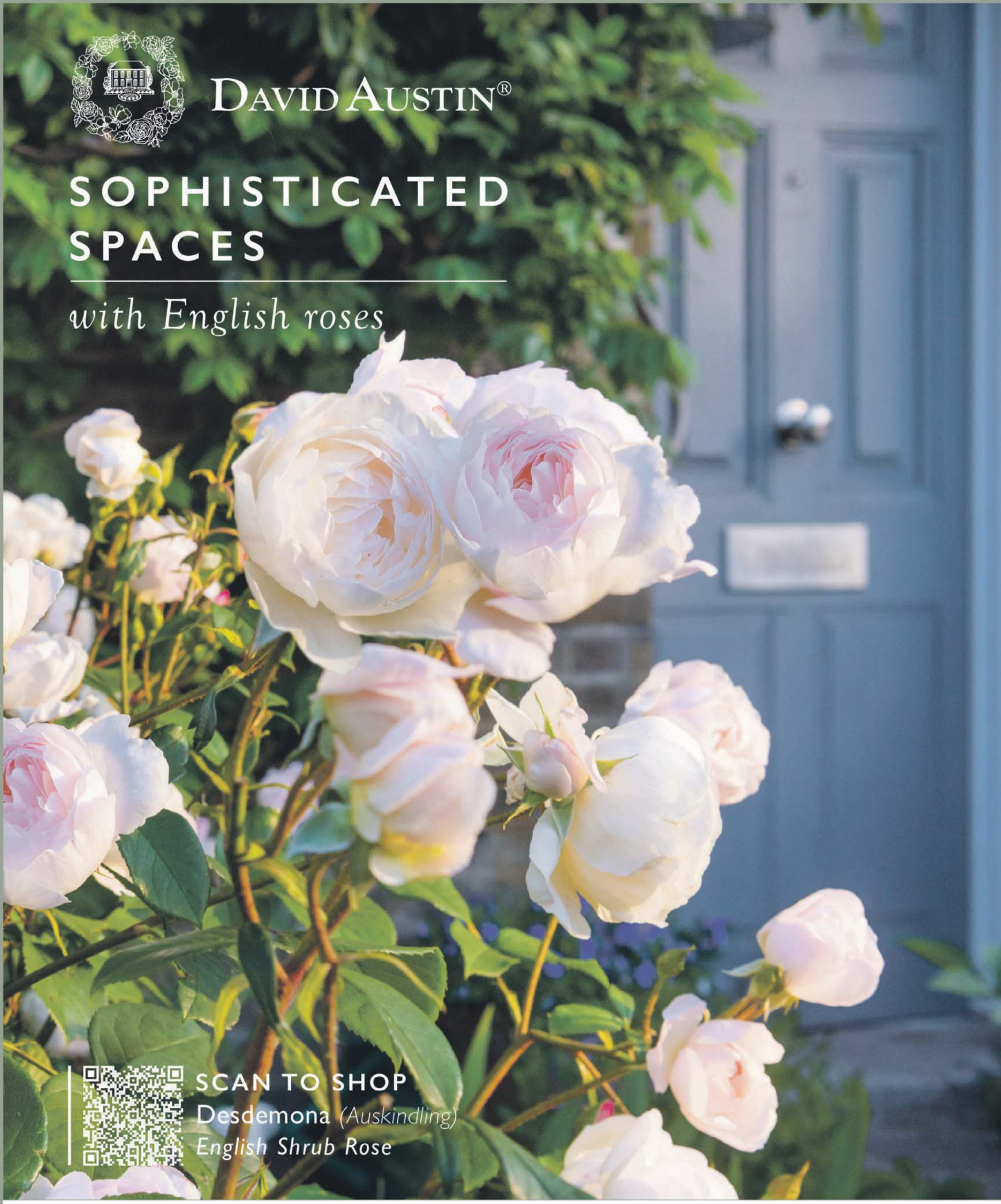
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Arch with Gate



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	EK2ZGC1B	Zero Gravity Recliner Set of 2 - Blue	£99.99		
	EK2ZGC1BK	Zero Gravity Recliner Set of 2 - Black	£99.99		
	EK2ZGC1G	Zero Gravity Recliner Set of 2 - Green	£99.99		
	Priority Processing & Express Delivery		£3.00	–	
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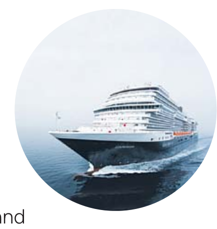
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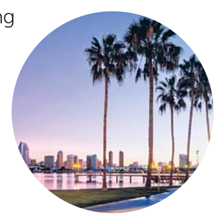
Cruise Highlights

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A total Solar Eclipse occurs only every one to two years, and to witness it is without doubt a rare occurrence. On 8th April 2024, a total Solar Eclipse will be visible from Mazatlán, Mexico. What better way to experience *totality* than on the wraparound deck of Holland America's 5★ ***Koningsdam***, far from the light and distractions of shore? Join us for this rare and memorable cosmic phenomenon. A total Solar Eclipse is in itself is special, but to possibly experience it is truly a once-in-a-lifetime event.

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See the very best of San Diego while touring at your own pace on a traditional orange and green trolleybus. Hop on and off at attractions, shops and restaurants, and enjoy friendly drivers narrating with a fascinating mix or trivia and stories. One of the most popular stops is the Old Town, where early Californian history comes to life.

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During this cruise you will cruise to no less than three of the islands of Hawaii. Hawaii boasts dramatic landscapes and a rich culture that's particularly eminent in Honolulu where you will enjoy an overnight stay on board. Visit the world's largest open-air shopping centre and the USA's only royal palace, discover fascinating stories and histories told through hula dancing.

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28 Nights Departing 3rd April 2024

April 2024

Wed 3	Fly from London to San Diego, California, USA> Upon arrival, transfer to a 4★ hotel‡ for your two night stay
Thu 4	San Diego, California, USA
Fri 5	San Diego, California, USA Transfer to the port and embark 5★ *Koningsdam* for your 22 night voyage
Sun 7	Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
Mon 8	★ TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE EXPERIENCE ★
Tue 9	Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
Tue 16	Kona, Hawaii, USA
Wed 17	Lahaina, Hawaii, USA
Thu 18 - Fri 19	Honolulu, Hawaii, USA (overnight)
Sat 20	Hilo, Hawaii, USA
Fri 26	Victoria, Canada
Sat 27	Vancouver, Canada Disembark and transfer to your 4★ hotel‡ for your three night stay
Sun 28	Vancouver, Canada
Mon 29	Vancouver, Canada
Tue 30	Vancouver, Canada Transfer to the airport for overnight flight to London>

May 2024

Wed 1	Arrive in London

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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Today Mostly dry, sunny and warm but thicker cloud will bring rain in Scotland and Ireland. Max 23C (73F), min 0C (32F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	15	B	0.0	10.1
Aberporth	15	S	0.0	6.7
Anglesey	15	S	0.0	6.7
Aviemore	18	C	0.0	1.6
Barnstaple	18	S	0.0	**
Bedford	16	PC	0.0	**
Belfast	16	C	0.0	2.8
Birmingham	18	S	0.0	**
Bournemouth	17	S	0.0	8.8
Bridlington	15	S	0.0	**
Bristol	18	S	0.0	6.8
Camborne	17	S	0.0	3.8
Cardiff	18	S	0.0	6.6
Edinburgh	13	C	0.0	4.3
Eskdalemuir	17	S	0.0	3.2
Glasgow	15	C	0.0	2.4
Hereford	17	S	0.0	**
Herstmonceux	16	PC	0.0	5.8
Ipswich	15	PC	0.0	3.4
Isle of Man	16	S	0.0	**
Isle of Wight	17	S	0.0	**
Jersey	15	C	0.0	4.9
Keswick	19	S	0.0	**
Kinloss	15	PC	0.0	3.0
Leeds	18	C	0.0	**
Lerwick	10	C	0.0	2.7
Leuchars	13	C	0.0	2.8
Lincoln	17	B	0.0	6.2
Liverpool	16	S	0.0	**
London	17	S	0.0	9.3
Lyneham	16	S	0.0	6.7
Manchester	18	B	0.0	6.5
Margate	13	PC	0.0	7.2
Milford Haven	18	PC	0.0	**
Newcastle	17	PC	0.0	**
Nottingham	18	PC	0.0	5.7
Orkney	13	C	0.0	3.5
Oxford	17	S	0.0	**
Plymouth	18	S	0.0	**
Portland	14	S	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	16	S	0.0	**
Shoreham	16	S	0.0	7.3
Shrewsbury	18	S	0.0	5.9
Snowdonia	18	S	0.0	**
Southend	14	PC	0.0	3.9
South Uist	13	B	0.0	**
Stornoway	11	D	0.0	6.6
Tiree	13	D	0.2	6.9
Whitehaven	17	S	0.0	4.5
Wick	11	S	0.0	**
Yeovilton	18	S	0.0	4.9

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	22	PC	Madeira	22	PC
Amsterdam	16	S	Madrid	16	B
Athens	24	PC	Malaga	21	PC
Auckland	15	S	Mallorca	24	PC
Bahrain	38	S	Malta	23	S
Bangkok	35	PC	Melbourne	14	B
Barbados	30	PC	Mexico City	27	PC
Barcelona	20	PC	Miami	25	S
Beijing	28	S	Milan	25	S
Beirut	24	S	Mombasa	30	PC
Belgrade	23	PC	Montreal	14	PC
Berlin	19	S	Moscow	23	PC
Bermuda	26	B	Mumbai	33	S
Bordeaux	25	S	Munich	22	PC
Brussels	17	S	Nairobi	23	B
Bucharest	22	PC	Naples	27	S
Budapest	24	S	New Orleans	29	S
Buenos Aires	21	C	New York	18	PC
Cairo	31	B	Nice	22	PC
Calcutta	32	S	Nicosia	25	PC
Canberra	11	S	Oslo	13	S
Cape Town	15	B	Paris	20	PC
Chicago	15	PC	Perth	18	S
Copenhagen	15	PC	Prague	18	B
Corfu	26	PC	Reykjavik	9	R
Delhi	32	PC	Riga	19	PC
Dubai	40	S	Rio de Janeiro	26	S
Dublin	18	PC	Riyadh	37	PC
Faro	21	PC	Rome	25	S
Florence	29	S	San Francisco	17	PC
Frankfurt	21	PC	Santiago	12	S
Geneva	22	PC	São Paulo	23	S
Gibraltar	22	PC	Seoul	23	S
Helsinki	13	SH	Seychelles	31	PC
Hong Kong	32	PC	Singapore	29	T
Honolulu	29	PC	St Petersburg	17	PC
Istanbul	21	PC	Stockholm	13	S
Jerusalem	27	S	Sydney	16	SH
Johannesburg	14	S	Tel Aviv	27	S
Kuala Lumpur	31	PC	Tenerife	21	B
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	23	PC
Lanzarote	21	PC	Vancouver	19	PC
Las Palmas	21	B	Venice	25	S
Lima	21	S	Vienna	21	B
Lisbon	19	B	Warsaw	20	PC
Los Angeles	15	C	Washington	21	PC
Luxor	40	S	Zurich	22	PC

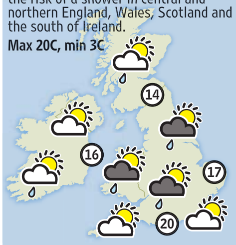
Five days ahead

Turning drier and warmer with increasing amounts of sunshine and winds easing

Tomorrow

Mainly dry with warm spells of sunshine but thicker cloud will bring the risk of a shower in central and northern England, Wales, Scotland and the south of Ireland.

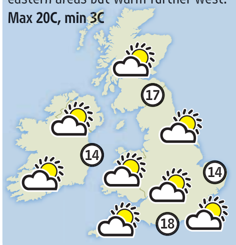
Max 20C, min 3C



Monday

A dry day with plenty of sunshine and some areas of cloud. Feeling cooler in eastern areas but warm further west.

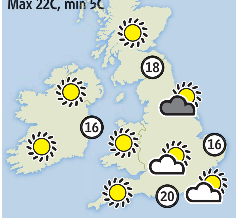
Max 20C, min 3C



Tuesday

A dry day with plenty of warm sunshine, mainly in the west. Some thicker cloud will make it feel cooler in central and eastern England.

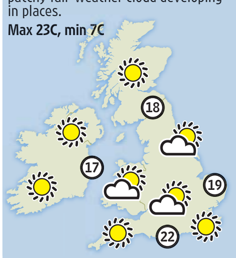
Max 22C, min 5C



Wednesday

A dry, warm and sunny day with some patchy fair-weather cloud developing in places.

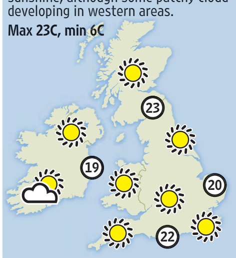
Max 23C, min 7C



Thursday

Dry and warm with long spells of sunshine, although some patchy cloud developing in western areas.

Max 23C, min 6C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

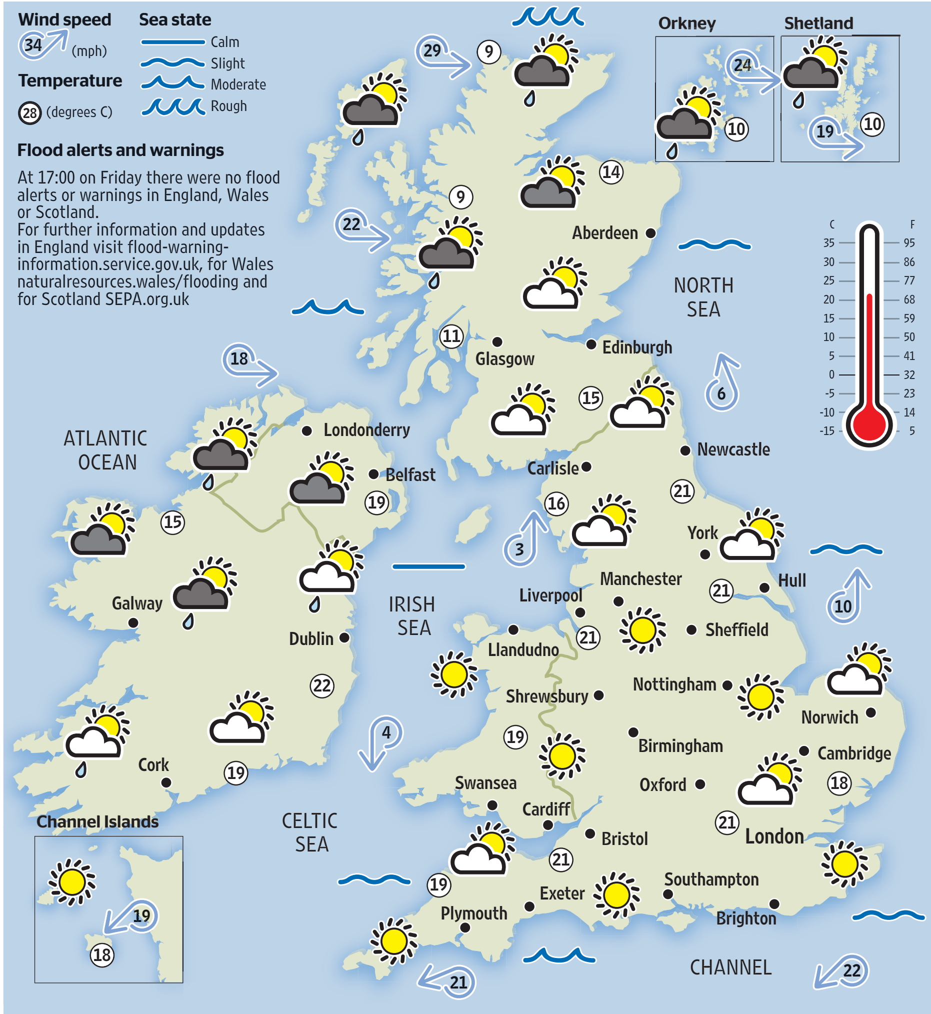
Wind speed 34 (mph)

Temperature 28 (degrees C)

Sea state Calm / Slight / Moderate / Rough

Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Friday there were no flood alerts or warnings in England, Wales or Scotland.
For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

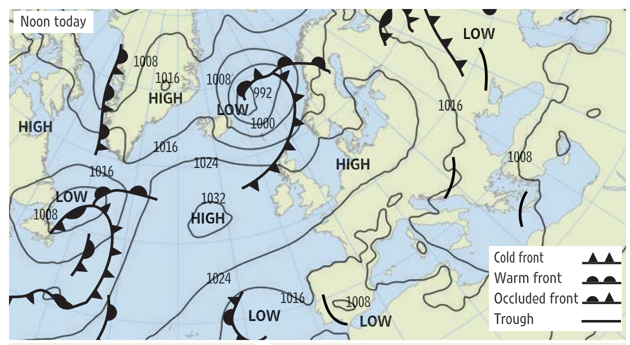


General situation: Dry, warm and sunny in the south but cloudier further north with the risk of some light rain.
E Eng, E Anglia, SE Eng, Aberdeen, London, E Mids, Cen S Eng: Any mist, fog or low cloud clearing to bring a dry day with sunny spells and areas of patchy cloud. Light and variable winds over England but moderate westerly in Aberdeen. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 5C (41F).
Republic of Ireland, N Ireland: Rather cloudy with the chance of a few light showers in the north and west, otherwise it will be a dry day with sunny spells. Light to moderate west or northwesterly wind. Maximum 22C (72F), minimum 3C (37F).
Channel Is, SW Eng, W Mids, NW Eng, Wales, Cen N Eng, NE Eng: Dry, warm and mainly sunny but some patchy fair-weather cloud in places. Light and variable winds, but moderate northeasterly over the Channel Islands. Maximum 23C (73F), minimum 7C (45F).
Edinburgh and Dundee, SW Scotland, Borders, IoM, Lake District: Dry with sunny spells at first but cloud increasing to bring the risk of a light shower during the afternoon. Light to moderate westerly wind. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 2C (36F).
Cen Highland, Glasgow, NW Scotland, Argyll, NE Scotland, N Isles: Cloudy with showery rain spreading eastwards before turning drier later. Moderate to strong westerly wind. Maximum 14C (57F), minimum 0C (32F).

Tides

Tidal predictions.
Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	07:23	3.4	20:20	3.2
Avonmouth	--:--	--	12:45	9.6
Belfast	05:03	3.2	17:49	2.7
Cardiff	--:--	--	12:42	9.0
Devonport	11:27	4.2	23:38	4.4
Dover	05:08	5.2	17:32	5.4
Dublin	04:06	4.5	16:56	4.2
Falmouth	11:05	3.9	23:27	4.1
Greenock	05:45	3.1	19:00	2.6
Harwich	05:29	3.3	17:44	3.2
Holyhead	04:06	4.5	17:01	4.2
Hull	11:49	5.7	--:--	--
Leith	08:41	4.4	21:18	4.3
Liverpool	04:51	7.4	17:32	7.0
London Bridge	07:23	5.8	19:31	5.6
Lowestoft	04:20	2.0	15:26	2.2
Milford Haven	--:--	--	12:15	5.0
Morecambe	05:04	7.3	17:45	6.8
Newhaven	04:40	5.0	17:22	5.1
Newquay	11:12	5.0	23:39	5.2
Oban	--:--	--	12:13	2.7
Penzance	10:48	4.1	23:18	4.3
Portsmouth	05:05	3.8	17:52	3.9
Shoreham	04:48	4.7	17:37	4.8
Southampton	03:53	3.5	16:45	3.7
Swansea	--:--	--	12:15	7.0
Tees	09:38	4.5	22:34	4.3
Weymouth	--:--	--	12:22	1.2



Synoptic situation

High pressure will cover most of the British Isles and central Europe bringing dry, sunny and warm weather. Low pressure to the east of Iceland will push a cold front southwards over Scotland and the north of Ireland leading to rather cloudy skies and some showery light rain. Turning fresher over the Bank Holiday as a cooler air mass moves in from the north.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Leeming, North Yorkshire, 22.0C
Coldest: Loch Glascarnoch, -1.0C
Wettest: Harris Quidinish, Western Isles, 0.6mm
Sunniest: Aberdeen, 10.1hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 04.53
Sun sets: 21.01
Moon rises: 11.58
Moon sets: 02.32 Sun
Full moon: June 4

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	22:12-03:57
Belfast	22:11-04:29
Birmingham	21:43-04:24
Cardiff	21:43-04:34
Exeter	21:41-04:39
Glasgow	22:12-04:14
Liverpool	21:52-04:24
London	21:31-04:22
Manchester	21:50-04:20
Newcastle	21:56-04:09
Norwich	21:31-04:11
Penzance	21:46-04:50
Sheffield	21:46-04:18

Weather Eye
Paul Simons



A cosmic explosion was seen in north London recently. Terence Murtagh, an astronomer, pointed his telescope towards the Pinwheel Galaxy and saw a supernova named SN 2023ixf.

The supernova had been created from the death of a massive star after it ran out of nuclear fuel and collapsed, going out in a bright explosion. This was seen on Earth on May 19 as a giant fireball.

Although too dim to see with the naked eye, the supernova has been easy to spot using amateur telescopes, and is expected to remain an amazing sight all summer. This is the closest supernova seen in recent years, a mere 21 million light years away, and so close and so young that astronomers will be following its evolution to find out more about how massive stars die and what happens to them afterwards.

The sight of supernovas has often been documented in history, and one in the 16th century may have inspired William Shakespeare when he wrote *Hamlet*. In the opening of the play, guards on the ramparts of Elsinore on a bitterly cold night refer to: "When yond same star that's westward from the pole/ Had made it course to illume that part of heaven/ Where now it burns."

It is known that in 1572, when Shakespeare was eight years old, a supernova suddenly appeared in the constellation Cassiopeia, so brilliant that it was visible even in the full brightness of daytime, and was a worldwide sensation. Shakespeare is believed to have written *Hamlet* in about 1600, and no matter what his memory of the 1572 supernova, he could easily have been reminded of it in Ralph Holinshed's chronicles, which he often used as a source.

A team of researchers led by Donald Olson at Texas State University used the description in *Hamlet*, and knowing the season and the time of the supernova's appearance, calculated that the bright light was in Cassiopeia, which lacks any notably luminous stars. And so the light in *Hamlet* was quite possibly the 1572 supernova.

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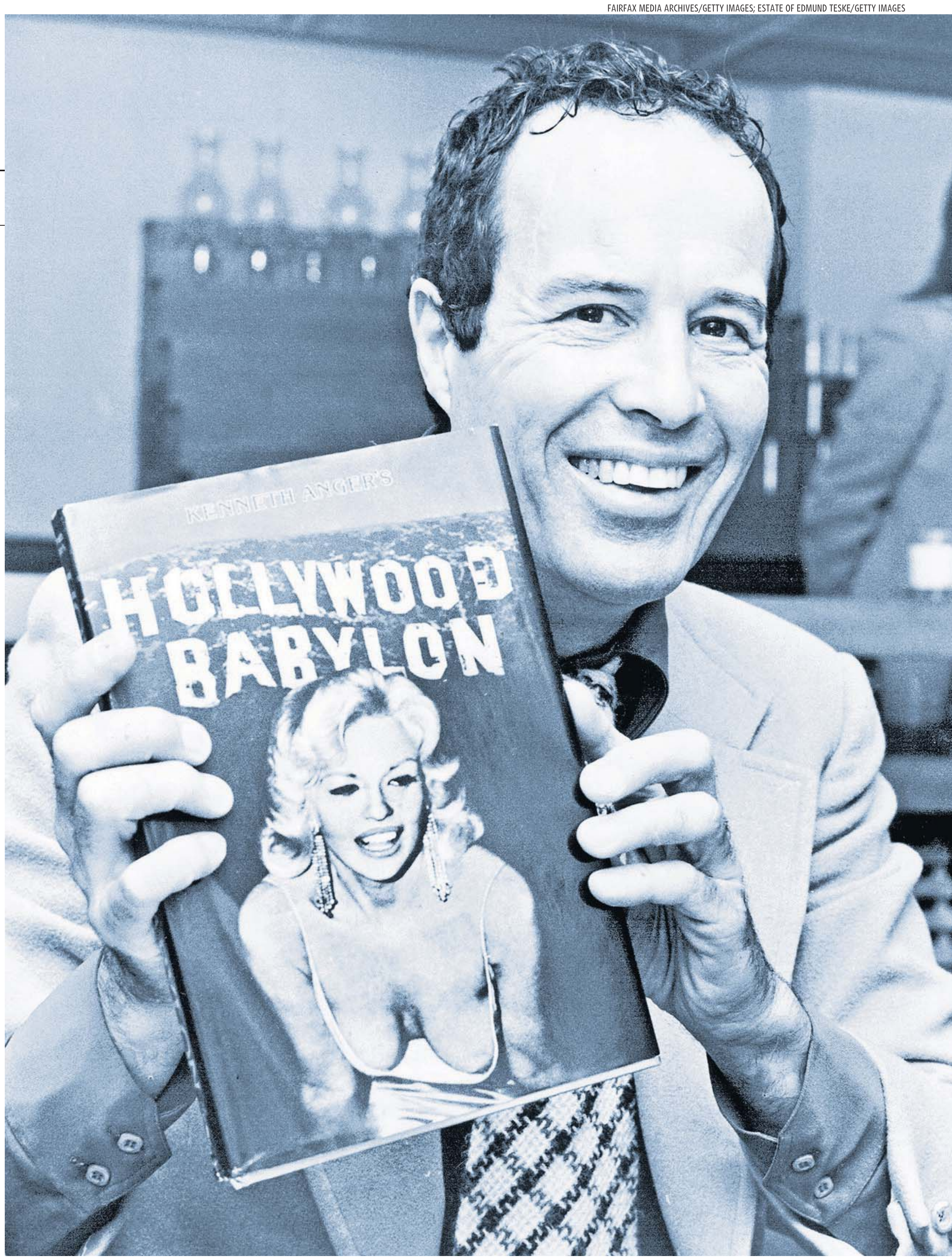
Register

Obituaries

Kenneth Anger

Audacious maker of experimental short films and author of a scandalous book on Hollywood

FAIRFAX MEDIA ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES; ESTATE OF EDMUND TESKE/GETTY IMAGES



Kenneth Anger died in 1967. No inadvertent obituary, this was a full-page advertisement which he himself put in the Village Voice in New York. Simply saying "in memoriam", its description read: "Filmmaker 1947-1967".

In fact his work had begun rather earlier than 1947, but the advertisement was redolent of a sometimes cantankerous career which, amounting to just a few hours of film, was bedevilled by his wayward habits and sparse funds.

Yet any avant-garde film director who, without ready money, was able to call upon the acting and musical services of Mick Jagger, Marianne Faithfull and the Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page was not short of chutzpah.

His "film poems" were notable for their innovative use of jump cuts and enigmatic imagery — suffused with the occult — and the directors David Lynch and Martin Scorsese were among those who acknowledged him as an influence — not least for the way he was first to use pop songs as soundtracks.

If always a recherché screen taste as a director, Anger captivated a far wider audience by detailing the shenanigans of Hollywood stars, including their drug addictions, abortions, sexual deviations and even mention of the size of their genitalia. First published in Paris in the late-Fifties, his salacious book *Hollywood Babylon* had an underground, bootleg circulation before his brisk, sometimes wearying accounts of misplaced lives was published in America in 1969, only to be promptly banned. It finally made it past the nervous lawyers in 1975 and became a bestseller.

Born in Santa Monica, California, in 1927, Kenneth Wilbur Anglemyer was the son of Wilbur Anglemyer, a machine-gun manufacturer, and Lillian Coler, a seamstress. His parents had married in 1918 and a daughter and son had soon followed. Kenneth came along after a gap and he never felt at ease with either father or siblings.

He claimed to have played the part — as a child actor — of the Changeling Prince in Max Reinhardt's extravagant, even lumbering 1935 film of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Whether or not it was him is debatable, for he was a great curator of his own mythology. But he also claimed more plausibly that around this time he danced with his fellow child actor Shirley Temple, and that they lost a contest owing to his incorporating a surreal twist. She made her ire felt, apparently.

What is clear is that as a teenager he was creating works of his own, including an unseen variant on Flash Gordon. At Santa Monica High School, he was aloof, and influenced by the work of the French poet Jean Cocteau: in 1943 he made the *The Nest*, with echoes of the incest in *Les Enfants Terribles*.

The following year, he moved to Beverley Hills to live with his maternal grandmother, and there made another short film, *Demigods*. He also began to hear Hollywood gossip and studied silent films, in particular those of DW Griffith, whom he saw from afar. Becoming a friend of the director Curtis Harrington he began to move in underground circles. Anger's tastes now extended to Luis Buñuel, Leni Riefenstahl, Tennessee Williams and the British occultist Aleister Crowley.

His grandmother's death in 1945 was a turning point, compounded by his arrest at a camera obscura in a gay entrapment. This hardly eased relations with his family which, none the less, continued to provide the allowance which enabled his exotic way of life. He studied cinema at the University of Southern California, and, around this time truncated his surname.

In his homoerotic short film *Fireworks* (1947) he cast himself as a character who wakes, goes for a stroll, and is then set upon by a gang of muscly sailors, the dreamlike narrative setting the tone for subsequent work. Anger was arrested on obscenity charges for *Fireworks*, but later acquitted by the Supreme Court of California. His next film, *The Love That Whirls,* was so rich in full frontal nudity that it was deliberately destroyed by Kodak.

Meanwhile, over in Paris, his hero Jean Cocteau had seen *Fireworks*, and sent word that he appreciated it. Anger was on the next plane over there and he and Cocteau duly collaborated on *Rabbit's Moon,* a film project that fizzled out through lack of funds.

There followed a sojourn to Rome, and his mother's death in 1953. Funds were now dependent upon his older sister Jean, who was not pleased by news of a party upon his return to California.

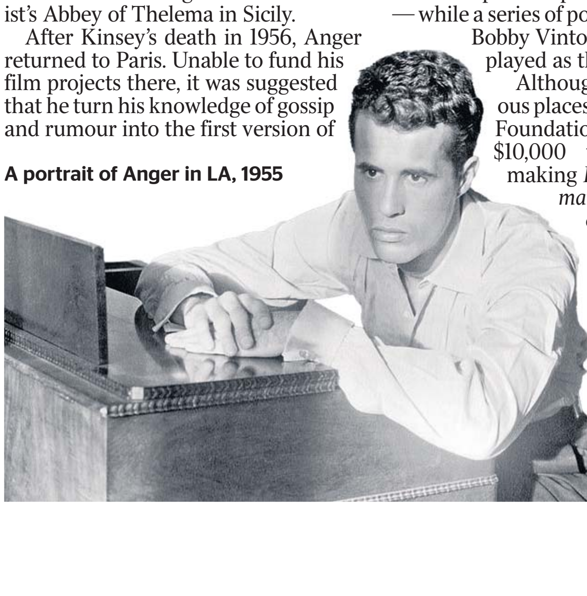
At about this time he met the prolific, widely-connected experimental filmmaker Stan Brakhage, sampled (then-legal) LSD and became friendly with Marjorie Cameron, the widow of John Parsons, a brilliant scientist who, after pioneering liquid-fuel rockets, died during an experiment in his garage.

All of this inspired Anger's *Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome* (1954) which, at 38 minutes, was to go through several versions, with changing soundtracks and starring roles for the writer Anaïs Nin and Harrington — the two playing characters who partake of a revel at which an orgy erupts.

The sexologist Alfred Kinsey became an acquaintance around this time, after *Fireworks* led him to believe that Anger's contacts could have a bearing upon his task in hand; he, too, was fascinated by Crowley and, with funds from Picture Post, their unlikely close friendship led to a film made together at the occultist's Abbey of Thelema in Sicily.

After Kinsey's death in 1956, Anger returned to Paris. Unable to fund his film projects there, it was suggested that he turn his knowledge of gossip and rumour into the first version of *Hollywood Babylone* (1959), as the now-rare French edition was called; published by a small firm, this was to cause Anger later grief with disputes over its copyright while unauthorised editions also circulated.

A portrait of Anger in LA, 1955



He then returned to America and made *Scorpio Rising* (1963), a thirty-minute succession of scenes in which lithe, leather-clad bikers play out a homoerotic fantasies against images of Christ, Adolf Hitler and the Devil, with much emphasis upon chrome fittings — while a series of pop songs including Bobby Vinton's *Blue Velvet* are played as the film score.

Although banned in various places, it led to the Ford Foundation granting $10,000 towards Anger's making *Kustom Kar Kommandos*. By now his cult status was undeniable, and he was an influence upon nascent film-makers such as Rainer Werner Fassbinder. Less commercially minded, however, Anger duly turned in a film that lasted just three minutes. The Foundation was displeased.

By now inhabiting a decidedly *louche milieu*, Anger set up a form of home with Bobby Beausoleil: a young, woman-hungry musician with a partiality for devil worship. He acted in the first version of Anger's film about Lucifer — but their disputatious relationship led to his stealing the footage and burying it in the Mojave Desert. Moreover, he had used Anger's money to buy high-grade cannabis, before borrowing his van, only to break down outside Charles Manson's ranch, wander in for help and become one of the "family".

He went on a 1967 march with 'LUCIFER' tattooed on his chest

In such circumstances, it was hardly a surprise, soon after his spurious death notice in the Village Voice, that Anger was pictured, during a 1967 march on the Pentagon, with a single word tattooed across his chest: LUCIFER.

The following year Anger moved to London and took up with the Indica Gallery crowd, near Piccadilly. It had strong connections with the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Indeed, Mick Jagger was partly inspired to write *Sympathy for the Devil* after talking with Anger, who felt certain that Keith Richards's girlfriend Anita Pallenberg (obituary June 14 2017) was a witch.

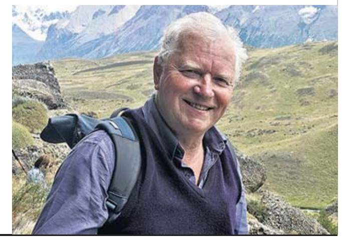
Anger had cast Jagger's girlfriend Marianne Faithfull in his next Lucifer film, *Lucifer Rising*, and tried to persuade Jagger to take the title. But after the notorious Altamont concert, where the Hell's Angels stabbed an audience member to death, the singer turned it down. He opted instead to provide and play the soundtrack, on a moog synthesiser, for Anger's ten-minute variation on Crowley's satanic rituals, *Invocation of My Demon Brother* (1969), starring Beausoleil, shortly before Beausoleil was arrested and condemned to death — later commuted to a life sentence when California suspended execution.

Meanwhile, Anger had met another Crowley enthusiast, Jimmy Page, and a friendship had developed, with the guitarist working on the music for *Lucifer Rising.* The half-hour result finally emerged towards the end of the Seventies, starring Faithfull.

Rumours continued to surround Anger, some perhaps of his own fabrication — such as the claim that, in Hawaii, he had not only been approached by Mark Chapman but shown the bullets that would kill John Lennon.

Erratic, sometimes bitter, Anger turned to preparing a second volume of

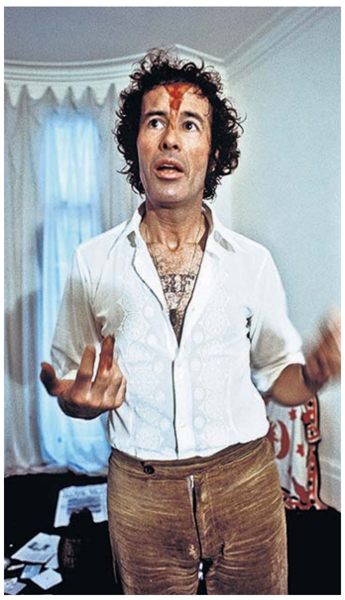
Astute chairman in UK tech industry
Ross Graham
Readers' Lives, page 80







Anger with his book in 1979, which was initially banned in the US. His films caught celebrities' attention despite their risqué content



Hollywood Babylon, and in 1987 returned from Manhattan to Los Angeles, where he lived in increasingly small premises, sometimes buoyed by grants amid rumours of hidden work and an outré existence.

His *Babylon* books defy continued reading, such is the nefarious parade, but they do shed some interesting light on Hollywood, revealing, for example, that Alfred Hitchcock sent the actress Tippi Hedren's daughter a doll version of the actress in a coffin; that there were only 14 people, including Greta Garbo, at the funeral of the director FW Murnau, who died in a car crash while perhaps pleasuring the young chauffeur at the wheel; and that Busby Berkeley once appeared in court on a bed to answer charges of causing death while drink-driving. Only Gloria Swanson sued over the allegations, and lost.

Often destitute and always reckless with whatever money he made, Anger squandered a $7,000 grant presented to him by the San Francisco Film Arts Foundation in the early 2000s. The intention was that he would use the money on a film project but he instead threw a lavish party, tipping his cab driver as he arrived for it with a $100 bill.

Kenneth Anger, filmmaker and author, was born on February 3, 1927. He died on May 11, 2023, aged 96

Jeremy Clarke

Journalist who ably succeeded Jeffrey Bernard as the picaresque Low Life columnist in The Spectator

When Jeffrey Bernard died in 1997 it was hard to imagine anyone taking on the mantle of his elegantly decadent Low Life column in The Spectator.

Yet in Soho's loucher establishments and elsewhere the show had to go on. Jeremy Clarke made the column his own for 23 years with a similar talent for hedonistic self-destruction. Bernard was often "unwell", as The Spectator so decorously described the effects of alcoholism, rendering him unable to write that week's column. Clarke was also sometimes "unwell" and towards the end of his life seriously, but never failed to file.

Bernard had worried inordinately about his copy despite giving the impression otherwise; Clarke also agonised over every word as he essayed his picaresque life of smoking crack with petty criminals and their fake-tanned molls, waking up in a Leicester Square gutter at 4am and, of course, plenty of casual sex followed by a rapid, caddish exit.

Thus on October 23, 2010, he wrote: "Discarded clothes were strewn all over the floor. I picked mine out and was wildly elated to find my wallet and phone intact. I dressed, then pulled on the curtain cord, revealing yet another miraculous October day. I thought about leaving a note saying it had been a wonderful relationship but it just wasn't working out, but couldn't find any paper."

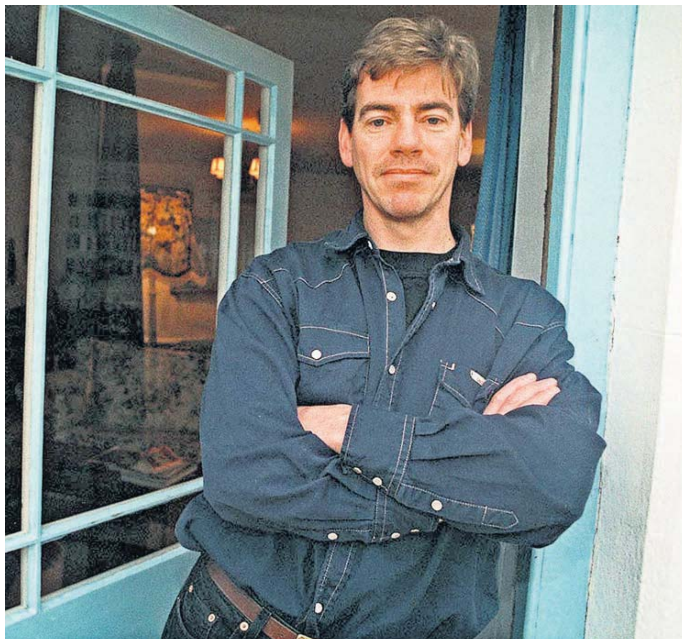
The bespectacled columnist slightly resembled Clark Kent and reports of his carousing and fornication certainly appeared superhuman. Countless peccadillos offered vicarious entertainment to more strait-laced readers, but only when Clarke was sober enough to do the deed. June 19, 2005, for example: "My friends told me that halfway through the ball they'd gone to look for me and found me unconscious outside, flat on my face on the lawn, next to the naked girl. Someone had taken off my shoes, arranged them neatly side by side and set fire to them."

Personal demons drove him to seek escapism: a poor relationship with his father, a depressive tendency and self-doubt that was not helped by a destructive on-off relationship. He would struggle with periodical self-loathing as a "drunk and a bum" and then write about it as if in expiation.

Despite his excesses, Clarke was never boorish: his social gallivanting was rooted in a love of people whom he would engage in conversation with an estuary twang. "He exuded a sense of life's possibilities when everyone else was thinking about going home and getting up early the next day," said an author friend. "He had this capacity to live in the moment and he felt that each person was a book waiting to be opened. There was a slight sourness to Jeffrey Bernard's writing towards the end but Jeremy never lost his generosity of spirit."

Jeremy John Clarke was born in 1957 in the town of Rochford, near Southend-on-Sea, Essex, the eldest of three children. His heavy-drinking father, John Lewis Clarke, was a bank clerk who ended up as a car park attendant for a naturist beach, until his wooden hut burnt down in an arson attack. His mother was Audrey (née Brice), a nurse who later ran an old people's home. Jeremy attended Buckhurst Hill County High School in Chigwell. He left with two O-levels, but more valuable was the advice from a kindly English teacher to read *Decline and Fall* by Evelyn Waugh. It planted a literary seed.

PAUL SLATER/APEX; ANNE SCHWARZ /THE SPECTATOR





Clarke at home in Devon, 1997: despite his excesses, he was never boorish; right, with Boris Johnson, who was editor of The Spectator when he joined in 1999

Clarke read widely and prolifically as he went from menial job to job over the next decade and a half, including a spell as a dustbin man. His enjoyment of Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* led to a period working in a mental hospital, from which he was sacked for drinking on the job. During this time he was collared for drink-driving, possession of amphetamine sulphate (known as speed) and football hooliganism as a fan of West Ham United. A "one-night reunion" with a former girlfriend called Sarah resulted in a son, Mark.

While backpacking in the Democratic Republic of Congo he had an epiphany and upon his return showed unprecedented application to pass his A-levels at night school. After being rejected by Hertford College, Oxford (Waugh's alma mater), he settled on a place at Soas in London to read African studies.

'Someone said "how are you?" and I replied "I've got f*ing cancer"'**

Clarke's literary journey thereafter was rooted in an unlikely passion for ferret husbandry. His review of a book on the skittish furry creatures for the student magazine of University College London brought him to the attention of the UCL professor Karl Miller. The distinguished literary critic used his connections to get him an agent (Alexandra Pringle) and win a book deal with a £50,000 advance.

Several years later there was little to show for the generous advance, least of all a book to delight ferret fanciers. Yet he had impressed enough as a columnist for Prospect magazine and The Independent on Sunday to show where his true métier lay.

Clarke joined The Spectator under the editorship of Boris Johnson in 1999, although it was the deputy editor Stuart Reid who talent-spotted him for the column that appeared every week as a counterpoint to the Greek playboy Taki's High Life column.

Clarke wrote of misadventures on trips up to London and nefarious outings in Devon, where he settled and fraternised with "ne'er-do-wells" in the hostelries of that county's less "chocolate-box" towns, with sometimes violent consequences.

So it went on until 2013, when he informed his devoted readers of his prostate cancer diagnosis. "I broke my promise to myself not to bore anyone with my news. Coming up on the train, I'd had a strong word with myself not to mention it at all costs. Vain hope. Sober I can be a model of modesty, propriety and restraint. Drunk: not so much. All too predictably there came a point in the evening when someone said, 'How are you?' and I replied, 'I've got f***ing cancer.'"

In remission, Clarke returned to his bad old ways, writing nearly a year after his diagnosis of snorting cocaine with a young woman in a nightclub lavatory. June 7, 2014: "The drama of the situation seemed only to relax her. She bent calmly and gracefully to her line, took it up her nose, then stood and inhaled deeply through her nostrils as though she were taking in the invigorating air on top of Beachy Head. The door by now was coming off its hinges, the thunder of the kicking deafening. Goodness knows how many people were out there."

He continued to write his column for ten years, finally finding happiness with Catriona Olding, an artist he met at the launch party of an anthology of his columns: she had won a ticket to the event by submitting a tasteless joke. Friendship became more after she separated from her husband and inspired Clarke's sentimental prose, such as: "Couldn't eat when we went out, just stared into each other's eyes."

In his final years they lived together in Provence and married earlier this year. She would use all her experience as a former nurse to care for him and survives him, as does his son.

Clarke wrote about the absurdity of his impending demise. July 30, 2022: "And I think: is this how it ends? Lying in bed watching TikTok videos? … I have always imagined that when it was time for me to die, I would make a serious effort to prepare myself. And now that the warning light is flashing, what do I do? I tap the TikTok app and there's Bernard Manning saying, 'A man walks into a pub with a crocodile under his arm.' Shoot me."

Clarke's final column was published on May 6, 15 days before his death. "Mouth fungus, apparently, is an inevitable side result of these cancer treatments. Unfortunately, by kissing her too frequently and too passionately, and vice versa, I have passed mine on to Catriona. But I'm sorry. Wouldn't you kiss passionately, deeply and often the lady who loves you so much that she is willing to care for your each and every need, as Catriona does with mine, 24 hours a day, instead of packing me off to a hospice and letting them do it all?"

Though his columns would waste little time in transporting his readers to the scene of debauchery, Clarke retained a religious belief of sorts, even if he could not sustain "giving his heart to Jesus" as he once professed to do at a Billy Graham rally. He mused on the notion that though he often regretted his actions, he had been entertaining readers by being naughty for too long to be allowed to do anything else. He wrote on August 20, 2005: "Once you've been doing it for a while, it's not easy to stop being a low life. There's nothing people enjoy more than watching someone going to hell on a poker, and they rather resent it if that person suddenly decides he wants to get off. No one objects in principle to an idle, self-centred, addicted life, as long as it ends prematurely in lonely and squalid circumstances and everyone can read about it in the papers. Renege on the deal, like a footballer in mid-contract, and people feel cheated."

Jeremy Clarke, writer, was born on February 9, 1957. He died of cancer on May 21, 2023, aged 66

Email: obituaries@thetimes.co.uk

Astute chairman in UK tech industry

Ross Graham, 75

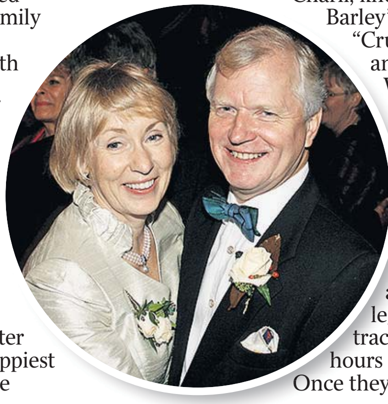
When Ross Graham won a non-executive director (NED) award for his work as chairman of Keywords Studios, he did not tell family and friends. His brothers only learnt of the achievement when they saw his name crop up in a Sunday Times article one day last year: "Video gamer who turned crisis into an opportunity."

Such modesty was a mark of the man. Ross had been an important figure in the growth of Keywords, a service provider to the video games industry offering everything from translation services to graphic design. He had joined as non-executive director and chairman in 2013 shortly before it was floated on the London Stock Exchange. At the time the business was valued at £49 million. During Ross's tenure, Keywords expanded from three studios with 120 full-time staff to a business with more than 70 studios, 12,000 employees and a market value of £1.7 billion today.

Growth-minded, and excited by the global boom in demand for video games, he was instrumental in dozens of acquisitions. Colleagues turned to him for his wise counsel and praised him for strengthening the company's governance processes without destroying its entrepreneurial ethos.

With characteristic commitment, he stayed on at Keywords Studios for ten years — an unusually long time for a non-executive chairman. When he died he was two weeks away from stepping down. In preparation for the retirement that finally awaited him, he wrote and recorded a poem reflecting on his decade with the company, which was due to honour him last week with a lifetime achievement award. The award will now be renamed in his memory.

Ross King Graham was born on August 15, 1947, in Wimbledon, southwest London, to Alison Pat (née Harmer), a housewife, keen golfer and former Wren, and Robin King Graham, a chartered accountant. The family belonged to the Graham of Menteith clan and Ross remained proud of his Scottish roots: he lived by the motto "Rycht and Reason", always drank whisky out of a quaich, had kippers delivered weekly from Scotland, and in later years was at his happiest in his holiday home overlooking Loch Tay, where he was a member of Killin golf club — a course he called "a little gem".



His elder sister, Ann, died of streptococcal pneumonia at the age of five. He was close to and protective of his two younger brothers, Jamie ("Brother Joe") and Barrie ("Beezie"), and after their father died of throat cancer he assumed a paternal role. With their eight-year age gap, Barrie recalled: "It would typically be Ross who drove me to and from school at either ends of the school term or half-term, and he'd be the one to go through my school reports and O and A-level results, offering words of commendation, or occasional disapproval."

Ross was educated at Boxgrove School, Guildford, followed by Loretto School, Musselburgh, where he was universally popular and excelled academically. He left school aged 17 with four A-levels in pure and applied mathematics, physics and chemistry. Owing to his father's ill health and the responsibilities he took on for the family, Ross did not attend university and instead, in 1965, joined Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co, the accountancy firm that later became known as Arthur Young and eventually EY.

He always drank whisky out of a quaich and had kippers delivered weekly

He qualified as a chartered accountant in 1969. As a restructuring specialist, Ross was parachuted in to crisis-hit companies battling for survival. Those early years, he would later reflect, taught him the main reasons that companies fail: getting complacent when the going is good.

At a friend's wedding in 1973, Ross met Jillie Shield, whom he married the following year. They went on to have three daughters: Kirsty, nicknamed "Special K" by her father; Charli, known as "Charli-Barley"; and Jo, dubbed "Crunch" as a child and later "Old Jo". When the girls were younger he invariably brought fun to family life, putting on wonderful children's birthday parties and creating a legendary go-kart track that provided hours of entertainment. Once they had grown up, Ross was highly amused one Christmas when two young men — who would become his sons-in-law — asked for his blessing to propose to two of his daughters and went to great lengths not to steal each other's thunder. He delighted in seeing how it played out over the festive period.



Ross Graham in Patagonia, Chile, in 2018. Left, with his wife Jillie in 2006, celebrating their daughter Jo's wedding at Dundas Castle, Edinburgh

After six years as a partner in Arthur Young (1981-87), he joined Misys, then a small business providing software to the insurance broking industry. As finance director he helped to list Misys on the Unlisted Securities Market, the predecessor to Aim. As corporate development director he played a part in turning Misys into the first British IT company to earn a place in the FTSE 100.

His non-executive career began in 2003 with a position on the board of the Edinburgh-based chip designer Wolfson Microelectronics, where he chaired the audit committee and sat on the remuneration committee. Wolfson went on to partner Apple, a move that helped to launch iPhones to the masses.

By the time Ross was appointed to Keywords Studios, he had ample experience in the UK technology industry. He mentored the executives who lacked his experience of bigger tech companies and was instrumental in appointing Bertrand Bodson as chief executive in 2021. Bertrand was on the cusp of accepting another position but was won over by Ross's passion and enthusiasm. He would call Ross on Fridays to catch up on business matters. Ross would always answer the phone in the same way: "Ah Bertrand! How can I help you today?" in his best faux-French accent.

He was never pompous or egotistical. Rank meant little to him. Principles were paramount. His career had flourished partly because of his skills as a people-person: vivacious and kind-hearted, he could talk to anyone, and everyone knew they could turn to him for advice. His office door was always open. If he was trenchant in his views it was because he always believed in doing what was right, not what was easy. It was this that fuelled his desire to write a book about the flaws he perceived in the legal system once he had officially retired.

With his keen wit and intellect, he was a Times crossword aficionado, qualifying several times for the annual Times Crossword Championship. He admired Winston Churchill and read voraciously about the world wars. His own way with words was evident in the letters he wrote.

It was typically selfless of him to donate blood religiously every three months; his last donation was in March. Indeed he was a creature of habit: he always wore shoes handmade by Guat of Sheffield (now Noble and Wylie) and carried quirky items around with him such as Tabasco, a pepper grinder and a penknife.

Ross used to play for Wimbledon Cricket Club before his best friend George poached him to join the Sons of Bacchus in the early 1970s. He became fixtures secretary and a busy match manager as the team made their way around village greens in Surrey and Sussex. Once enjoying a post-match pint in a Surrey pub, he regaled a recent acquaintance with a ball-by-ball description of his 32-run innings for Wimbledon. Turning to his new friend, Ross said, "So who do you play for, Barry?" The great Barry Richards replied: "Hampshire, South Australia and South Africa."

Though devoted to cricket and indeed tennis — Ross was a member of Queen's and loved to play with Charli — his greatest sporting love was undoubtedly golf, which he played on courses around the world. His handicap had recently gone up from 10 to 12; his lowest was five. As a member of Sunningdale he served on the general committee, where again his insistence on openness and good governance was widely respected. Annual holidays to north Cornwall centred around Trevose golf and country club. He was a past captain of Blackwell golf club and a proud member of the Lucifers, with whom he had recently toured in Australia. He also adored teaching golf to his children and grandchildren.

He died enjoying his favourite sport at Gullane, one of the most beautiful golf courses in Scotland — 50 years and one day on from when he first met his wife Jillie.

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Model and producer who travelled to the North Pole

GABY BEDFORD, WHO DIED AGED 76, WAS FEATURED IN THE TIMES

THE TIMES

Remembering loved ones

Drama head who gave all her pupils a chance to act

Virginia Spooner, 73

The power of theatre, Ginny Spooner firmly believed, could transform young people's lives. At Thomas Tallis School, a large mixed comprehensive in southeast London where she taught drama for more than 15 years, she ensured that anyone who wanted to have a role on stage should be allowed to have one. For her it could only lead to greater confidence, in school and in life. Such was her enthusiasm that the numbers wanting to audition could be overwhelming. In her 1970s production of *Peer Gynt,* the stage was heaving with pupils playing trolls.

For the main role in the Ibsen play, Ginny chose a pupil with potential talent but little experience of acting and learning lines. Unfazed, she suggested that he improvise around the script. The subsequent performance was nothing if not moving. And yet it brought with it in some quarters criticism that she had set up the boy for failure as he would never recapture the highlight gained from the performance. Her response was typically robust. "Ah," she said, "but this taste of what life could be may open his eyes and heart to something great." Years later she came across the pupil, who thanked her for believing in him.

Warm encouragement of others — whether of her pupils or the teachers that she went on to train — was paramount to Ginny. Throughout her career as a senior examiner of drama, her priority remained to mark a performance only positively, while her personality and sense of humour could light up a room. She may not have had children of her own but she was adept at putting them at ease, and understood their intimidation when facing a group of four examiners. "When Ginny examined, the children always did better," one drama teacher remarked.

Virginia Barker was born in 1949 in Banbury, Oxfordshire, the elder of two girls. Her sister Elizabeth went on to become a solicitor and senior local government officer. Ginny's father, Gordon, was an ace fighter pilot during the Second World War who flew more than 600 hours in sorties and patrols in Gloster Gladiator biplanes and Hawker Hurricanes in Greece, Libya and the Middle East. It came to an end only when his aircraft, while taking off from the airfield, was strafed by enemy Messerschmitt 109s in the Middle East. Badly injured, he was repatriated to Britain to become a flying instructor.



Within a few months of his return, Gordon met Mary Blinkhorn, the daughter of the mayor of Banbury, at a fundraising event for the RAF where he was her father's guest of honour. They married only weeks later. Gordon went on to work in the Blinkhorn's family business of commercial photography in Banbury and subsequently became a sub-postmaster. It was a shock when his life was cut short by a heart attack in his forties. A likely cause was his exposure to unhealthy levels of air pressure during the war where, like many of his contemporaries, he flew in an open cockpit. He died in 1965 when Ginny was 16. (Only a few years later her mother would die from a tragic accident.)

ANN PARKINSON



Virginia Spooner in 2003 and, left, marrying Graham in 1991

For Ginny, who was in her first year of sixth form at Oxford High School when her father died, the shock was profound and she missed the best part of an academic year. The school suggested she switch from her chosen A-levels in the sciences to the arts, which it was thought she could pass in a single year. The drama and English courses would end up being the making of her.

Also taking a keen interest in the arts was her mother, an enthusiastic member of Banbury's amateur dramatic society, who accompanied Ginny to the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford to see *Hamlet, King Lear* and all Shakespeare's history plays. It started Ginny's lifelong passion for drama and in 1967 she got into the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, central London, and graduated with the gold medal for her year.

Yet playing made-up characters was not part of Ginny's game plan — "I want to be me and no one else," she announced — and, with the backing of her mother, who wanted to see her in a regularly paid job, chose teaching over acting.

When Ginny was in the sixth form of Oxford High, she met an undergraduate who became her first husband. At the time he was the chairman of the college's ball committee. After the committee members learnt of her passion for the works of Oscar Wilde, on the evening of the ball, in homage to the habit of the playwright, each dressed in black tie with a painted green carnation in their lapels. Many years later she would recreate the scene in a production at Thomas Tallis School.

After Guildhall Ginny found teaching positions in schools in Brentwood, Essex and Leytonstone, east London, and by the mid-1970s she was head of drama at Thomas Tallis School in Greenwich, where she would stay until 1991.

To recover from the breakdown of her first marriage, she spent a six-month sabbatical in Baltimore and on her return attended the birthday party in 1987 of Graham Spooner, a director of the investment company 3i and a Cambridge graduate.

She married him on her birthday in 1991, resigned from Thomas Tallis School and moved with Graham into part of Barrow Court, a manor house in north Somerset.

For more than 30 years — she was working until this February — Ginny was a senior schools drama examiner. It was a job that took her around the world, from Haggerston, east London, to Hong Kong, in both the state and independent sectors.

Known in schools as "the queen bee of drama", Ginny became the chief examiner for GCSE drama, principal examiner for A-level drama, and chaired the General National Vocational Qualification, the Creative Arts and Media Diploma and London Drama. Latterly, she was the chairwoman of the Pearson Edexcel GCSE drama course. It remained her strong belief that the examination boards should be run as not-for-profit organisations.

In line with her passion for theatre, Ginny's reading was prodigious and included the entire works of Shakespeare, Jane Austen and Charles Dickens (with the exception, she said, of *Barnaby Rudge* with which she struggled). At least three books a week were devoured by her. Her taste did not stop at the classics and in the two houses that the couple owned there were at least a thousand cookbooks in each kitchen.

She was a Friend of the National Theatre and a patron of the RSC, and a fan of Stephen Sondheim and the ballet, particularly Matthew Bourne's *The Red Shoes.*

Although the couple based themselves in Somerset, Ginny preferred London, where they had a house in Islington. They may have had a five-acre garden at Barrow Court based on a Tudor layout, but Ginny was rarely seen to set foot on its lawn. Her preferred habitat, with its tarmac, street lighting, traffic noise — and greater drama — remained the city.

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thetimes.co.uk/static/terms-and-conditions

Postwar architect based in Wales with a vision for modern housing

Elizabeth Foulkes, 98

The postwar years offered a wealth of opportunity for British architects who were brimming with ideas on how to rebuild the country. In 1945 Elizabeth Johnson passed her Royal Institute of British Architects (Riba) qualification and in 1947 returned from six months of work experience in Stockholm with a vision for modern housing.

The opportunity to implement her ideas came in 1952 after she married the architect Ralph Foulkes and left Denbighshire county council's planning department to join his family's architectural firm, Colwyn Foulkes, in Colwyn Bay, north Wales.

Brighter, more modern homes were being endorsed by the minister responsible for housing, Aneurin



Elizabeth Foulkes: Riba vice-president

Bevan, and the architectural practice had already introduced the indoor lavatory. It was only a short time before Elizabeth, with her analytical mind, managerial skills and foresight, assumed the position of managing partner. She steered the practice through the building of town halls, hospitals, schools, universities and industrial and landscape projects.

Among those she was most pleased with was the women's hall of residence at Bangor University, where her choice of Knoll chairs stands today. By 1975 Elizabeth was vice-president of Riba. Her tenure coincided with the exposure of the John Poulson affair, when the Yorkshire architect was jailed after being found guilty of bribing MPs, police officers, health authorities and civil servants to win contracts. Elizabeth was tasked with producing a "competence" report, a new code of conduct for architects, which involved her chairing a committee of some of the biggest names in the business.

It led to Elizabeth's subsequent position as the first woman president of the Society of Architects in Wales and she went on to have roles with the Countryside Commission, the Nature Conservancy Council, Campaign for National Parks, National Grid and Council for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW). She was a justice of the peace in Clwyd and deputy lieutenant. In 1978 she was appointed MBE.

Elizabeth Johnson was born in 1924 in Abertillery, Monmouthshire. Her father, Allan, worked for Co-op Insurance; her mother, Williamina (née Innes), was a magistrate, local councillor and an activist on women's rights who had stood for parliament.

For Elizabeth, social justice, fairness and equality were in her DNA and after Wimbledon High School she studied architecture at Wimbledon College of Arts. It was her lifelong objective to ensure "people had good homes to live in and good schools to go to". On her subsequent degree course at the Liverpool University School of Architecture she met Ralph Colwyn Foulkes, her future husband, and they married in 1950. They had three children: Innes, a former administrator at the National Farmers' Union; Nick, an architect; and Huw, a chartered surveyor.

If Elizabeth, with her razor-sharp mind, sometimes found it hard to suffer fools, she could be great fun. She was also a brilliant cook. The impetus to work never faded. In her final days she was with her daughter preparing the draft agenda for celebrations for the centenary of the CPRW.

Register

Births, Marriages and Deaths

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THEN spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
John 8.12 (AV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

DOOLEY
on 12th May 2023 to Stina Dooley (née Frison) and William Dooley, a son, Sam William Magnus Dooley.

ILLINGWORTH on 21st February 2023 to Eloise (née Morgan) and William, a daughter, Beatrice Anne, sister to Alice.

KINCHIN-SMITH
on 10th May 2023 to Chelsea (née Williams) and Joseph, a son, Bram Embry Francis, brother to Rafe.

WATKINS on 15th May 2023 to Catharine (née Denning) and Scott, a son, Kit Arthur Charles.

Forthcoming Marriages

MS KATHERINE M. TEMPLAR LEWIS AND CAPTAIN SAM T. CONNIFF
The engagement is announced between Renegade Scientist, Katherine Templar Lewis, and Pirate Captain, Sam Conniff, who shall not cease from exploring. Or laughing.

MR T. A. A. HUDDART AND MISS I. A. GREAVES
The engagement is announced between Tom, son of Mr and Mrs Tim Huddart of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, and Isabel, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Mark Greaves of Drayton Parslow, Buckinghamshire.

MR C. W. ROGERS-COLTMAN AND MISS E. E. SAUNDERS
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Julian Rogers-Coltman, of Hope Bagot, Shropshire, and Ella, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Saunders, of Cheney Longville, Shropshire.

Deaths

BEST
Mark died peacefully on 16th May 2023, aged 54 years.
He was surrounded by his loved ones after a courageous battle.
A beloved son, brother, uncle, friend and "monkey keeper".
He will be dearly missed by his family, friends and all who knew him. Funeral service on
Monday 12th June at 3pm,
St George's Church, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4DL.
Family flowers only please. Donations, if wished to the Big Cat Sanctuary https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/markjolyonbest

DUNDAS Enid Rosamond (Robby), the Hon Lady Dundas, peacefully at home on 22nd May. Beloved wife of the late Sir Hugh Dundas and loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral service to be held at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, at 2.30pm on Monday 12th June.

GALLIMORE Primrose Mary (née Wallace) on 25th May 2023, aged 84, formerly of Stewkley, Bucks. Much-loved wife of the late John Gallimore, mother of Daniel and Matthew, mother-in-law of Joanne and Miho, and grandmother of Hannah, James and Danielle. Inquiries to family at joannegallimore@msn.com.

HAMPSON Dr Ing Prof F. W. Frederick William, MPhil, PhD, CChem, FRSC, FIMechE, FIMMM, EurIng. died peacefully on 1st May 2023, aged 89 years, at his home in Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne. A dearly loved son of the late Constance and George Hampson of Harrogate, Yorkshire. Please meet for service at the West Road Crematorium, Newcastle NE5 2JL on Thursday 8th June at 11.45am. Donations in lieu of flowers can be made in support of the Tanfield Railway, Stanley DH9 9UY. Afterwards friends are welcome to the Benwell Hill Cricket Club, West Road, NE15 7EU. All inquiries c/o Mark Wait Funeral Services, NE3 4TS, tel 0191 285 6635.

HARRIS Nabila Fares Sarofim. Died Friday 12th May 2023. Dearly beloved wife of Jonathan. Mother of Louisa and Marcus. Grandmother of Karim, Hana and Nadia. Service of thanksgiving, Wednesday 28th June, midday, St Barnabas Church, 23 Addison Road, Kensington W14 8LH. Refreshments afterwards at the church.

HAY Mary Gillian Sarah (née Badgett) on 23rd May 2023, aged 75. Mary Gillian Sarah Hay (Gil) died peacefully at home after a long illness bravely borne. There is to be a funeral service at St Mary's Church, Slaugham, on Monday 5th June at 10.30am. No flowers. Donations to the NSPCC.

LAPPING Peter on 15th May 2023, aged 81 years. Formerly of Loretto, Shiplake and Sherborne schools. Private funeral. Thanksgiving service at Holy Trinity, Minchinhampton, Glos GL6 9BP, on Friday 23rd June at 12.00 noon. Colourful clothes please. All enquiries to Fred Stevens FD's, tel: (01453) 832188

STABLE Victoria died peacefully on 30th April 2023, aged 67. Beloved sister of Emma and a very dear friend to many. Her funeral is on 14th June at St Mary's Church Upper Street, Islington N1 2TX, at 2pm. In lieu of flowers, donations to Freedom from Torture can be made by cheque to W. G. Miller Funeral Directors 93 Essex Road, London N1 2SJ tel 0207 266 3886 or https://victoriastable.muchloved.com

WHEELER Geoffrey Christopher Robert died on 10th May 2023, aged 96. The family of Geoffrey Wheeler FRICS, FRTPI, are sad to announce his death. He dedicated his life to public service. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Dorothy on 12th December 2022 and is survived by children and grandchildren. There will be a memorial service at St Mary's Church, Grundisburgh, on 21st June 2023 at 2.30pm. Donations may be given via https://geoffrey-christopherrobert-wheeler.muchloved.com

Thanksgiving Services

GRAHAM Ross King. A service of Thanksgiving to celebrate his life will be held at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Sunninghill, Ascot, at 1.30pm on 30th June 2023.

Memorial Services

GREEN Julia (née Davidson) at Chelsea Old Church, Chelsea, London SW3, on 6th July 2023 at 11am. For information, please email themillhouse.23@gmail.com

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NOTICE is hereby given, in accordance with the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the above named company, is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on 18 May 2023 and Eldon Solomon of Palm Grove House, P.O. Box 438, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands is the voluntary liquidator.
Dated: 18 May 2023
(Sgd) Eldon Solomon
Voluntary Liquidator

Court Circular

Buckingham Palace
26th May, 2023
By command of The King, Mr Alistair Harrison (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr Lounès Magramane at the Embassy of Algeria, 1-3 Riding House Street, London W1, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Court of St James's.

The King was represented by Mr Stephen Leckie (His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross) at the Funeral of Mr John Bullough (Chairman of Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance) which was held at St John's Kirk of Perth, St John's Place, Perth, this afternoon.

Kensington Palace
26th May, 2023
The Prince of Wales this afternoon met members of the Grenfell community supported by Queens Park Rangers Football Club at Loftus Road Stadium, South Africa Road, London W12, and was received by Mr Kevin McGrath (Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London).

St James's Palace
26th May, 2023
The Princess Royal, Patron, Battle of the Atlantic Memorial, accompanied by Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, this morning attended a Service and unveiled the Garden of Reflection Memorial at Liverpool Parish Church, Old Churchyard, and, having been received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside (Mr Mark Blundell), afterwards opened an Exhibition at Western Approaches Museum, 1-3 Rumford Street, Liverpool, before attending a Reception at Liverpool Town Hall.

St James's Palace
26th May, 2023
The Duke of Kent, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, this morning visited The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) at Leuchars Station, St Andrews, Fife.

True and selfless hospitality is a little glimpse of Heaven

Credo
Anthony Rama



The practice of hospitality always requires effort, but how much easier it is to offer in times of prosperity! Indeed, when there is plenty to go around, hospitality can be as much an expression of a giver's wealth and generosity as it is a discipline and habit of sharing and caring.

By contrast, in times of trouble, such as we are experiencing in South Sudan, to offer hospitality means risk, sacrifice and the certainty that our resources will be stretched beyond their limits. Perhaps that is why Christians are challenged not only to offer hospitality but to do so "cheerfully", or even "without grumbling".

It's not always easy to smile as you stretch your only meal of the day to feed another mother's child, knowing that your own children may be even hungrier as a result, but this is what people here do and, more often than not, do it with love.

People in Sudan and South Sudan share a strong cultural and historical heritage. The worsening conflict in Sudan means that we now need to face up to our shared vulnerability in an increasingly destabilised region. As thousands flee the horrors of war, our commitment to hospitality is truly being put to the test.

The needs of people arriving from Sudan are great. They have had to leave everything behind. Communities in South Sudan are themselves already struggling to survive in the face of an extreme climate and hunger crisis. Now, those hosting people fleeing Sudan have to share what little clean water, food, hygiene products and shelter there is available with strangers. It's not only practical items that are needed but also emotional resources, shoulders to cry on and safe spaces to allow people fleeing their homes to grieve for their losses.

In my role as a country director for the international Christian relief agency Tearfund, I've been involved in supporting the local church to offer emergency assistance to both internally displaced people and refugees.

In February, a Baptist church compound in the town of Kajo Keji played host to 19,000 internally displaced people who had fled violence and killings. Margaret Liyek, 60, described her experiences by saying: "My three children were killed that night and my house was burnt, I lost everything. When I arrived at the church compound, I didn't know what to eat or where to sleep. I had no hope at all. At least now we have shelter, water containers, latrines and bathrooms, soap, and clean water to drink. The kindness and support shown to us provides some comfort, despite the pain."

Tearfund is working to equip the church in South Sudan to be an essential first responder, like it has been for Margaret. We can't change what has happened, but with the right resources and training, we can offer a refuge, a place to grieve and enough love and light to enable people to hold on to hope even in the worst of times.

The one thing I have learnt is that hospitality is never a one-way transaction. When we give, we also receive. Perhaps this is why we can be encouraged by the teaching in the Bible that tells how in offering hospitality, some have entertained angels.

There is something deeply soulful about true, compassionate and uncompromising hospitality. When we are able to put ourselves and our own needs aside and pursue a mutual love and respect for one another, regardless of where we come from or where we think we or "they" belong, there is transcendence of sorts. We touch a glimpse of Heaven.

Perhaps this is why we in South Sudan are ready to offer hospitality, despite the cost. We have experienced conflict ourselves, and many of us know what it is to run for our lives and lose family members along the way. Some of us even fled to Sudan when times were harder at home and now find ourselves returning, while hoping we will be well received.

To offer hospitality takes patience, tolerance, kindness and, more importantly, resources. Most of all it takes a shift in mindset from "I" or "me" to thinking about the whole of humanity as "us" or "we". As the crisis in Sudan worsens and thousands more flee, we pray that the international community will also rise to the challenge that we are faced with and extend their own hospitality towards South Sudan as we too do our best, as cheerfully as we can, to meet the needs of those crossing our borders in the hope of hospitality.

Anthony Rama is Tearfund's country director for South Sudan

The perfect gift for new parents

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CILLIAN FRANCIS DUNKLEY WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 19, 2022, AT PETERBOROUGH CITY HOSPITAL IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE TO KATE WALSH AND JAMIE DUNKLEY



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THE TIMES

The Times Saturday Quiz Olav Bjortomt

1 "Sinocentrism" refers to the worldview that which country is the centre of the world?

2 Which fairground ride is named after the American civil engineer George Washington Gale Ferris Jr?

3 Jude Law played whom in the films *Sherlock Holmes* and *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*?

4 Which 1953 play by Arthur Miller is set in 1692 during the Salem witch trials?

5 Which Northern Irish broadcaster married the TV presenter Ruth Langsford in 2010?

6 Which Asian country's new capital, Nusantara, will be situated in East Kalimantan province?

7 Which type of plastic bin was invented in 1968 by the Slough-based firm Frank Rotherham Mouldings?

8 Which red-headed cartoon bird is the official mascot of Universal Studios?

9 Captain James Cook described which Royal Navy sloop as "the ship of my choice"?

10 Which tyrannical son of Marcus Aurelius became the sole Roman emperor in 180?

11 The MacKinnon family owned which Scotch whisky and heather honey liqueur for 100 years?

12 The St Johns River is the longest river entirely within which US state, population about 22 million?

20



ALAMY

13 What did Ernest Hemingway define as "grace under pressure"?

14 Which personal assistant, adviser and curator to Elizabeth II wrote the book *Dressing the Queen*?

15 Hanged at Tyburn on November 16, 1724, which thief managed four escapes from London prisons?

16 Showing 20 images, each for 20 seconds, which storytelling format's name is Japanese for "chitchat"?

17 Which American composer scored the Jordan Peele films *Get Out*, *Us* and *Nope*?

18 In motor racing, which flag is waved at the finish line to signal the end of the race?

19 Nicknamed "the Beast", which Englishman won the 2017 World's Strongest Man title?

20 The pictured Cathedral Church of St Nicholas is in which English city?

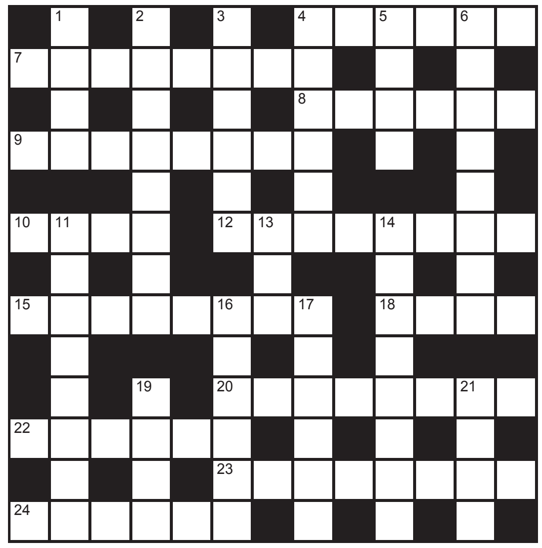
Answers below right

Last week's O Tempora! solution

V	A	L	E	N	T	E	S		A	G	R	I
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O	V	A	T		T	R	E	P	I	D	U	S
	E		N				L		Q		C	
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O Tempora! Crossword CCCXCIX by Aenigmatifex

A weekly crossword for the classically minded



Clues, which may be straight or mildly cryptic, always lead to answers in Latin

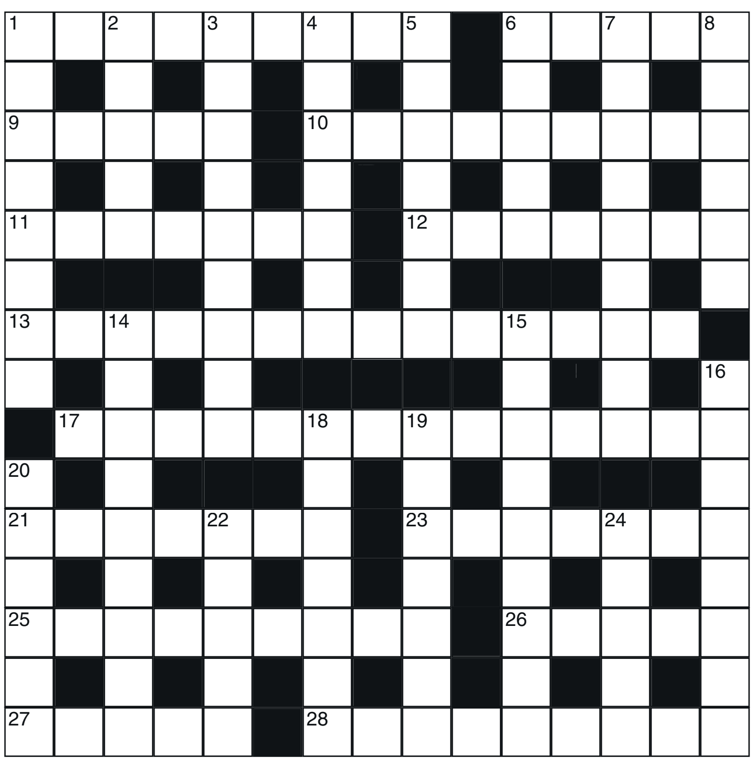
Across

4 Mitigare, lenire: to calm (6)
7 Arrangement it ruined in the daytime (8)
8 Ceteris maior, sicut regina Batavorum? (6)
9 Half, as Horace valued Virgil's share in his own soul (Carmina 1.3.8) (8)
10 Alas and alack! (4)
12 To make an offering: victimam mactare (8)
15 Colours, badges of office (8)
18 Second root vegetable? (4)
20 Of two shapes and kinds, like the Minotaur: mixtumque genus prolesque ___ (Virgil Aen. 6.25) (8)
22 In absentia subsistere (6)
23 Rum clues make something hidden but also revealed! (8)
24 To flow: manare, labi (6)

Down

1 To be troubled, feel pain: vexari (4)
2 Of danger: comminationis, discriminis (8)
3 Plus dedi (6)
4 Top of the table perhaps? (6)
5 Primus in agmine contendi (4)
6 Frangeret: she might break (8)
11 Poenus qui elephantos ad oppugnandam Romam instruxit (8)
13 My friends or family (nom.) (3)
14 Sicut Trimalchio, qui servus olim fuerat (8)
16 In matrimonium cum marito ire (6)
17 I faced confusion: contigi (6)
19 That ghastly Verres, as described by Cicero in court: ___ homo amens ac perditus (In Verrem 1.6) (4)
21 Dies Martii mensis infelix Caesari? (4)

Times Crossword No 28,614



A £20 Waterstones gift voucher will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened on Thursday. Enter by post to: Times Crossword No 28,614, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ, or by email to: prize@thetimes.co.uk, with "Crossword 28614" in the subject line. Open to 18+, UK & ROI residents only. Winners and solutions will appear on Monday week.

Name/Address...

....

....*

Across

1 Somewhere to go in pants, garment covering legs (4,5)
6 Foundation taking book in present state (5)
9 How to develop plot, one of several one has on hand (5)
10 Find out when church runs function — about one (9)
11 Defiant expression, being uncomfortable about article (2,5)
12 Subsequently having leading pair back on the side (7)
13 Page author altered with biro, writer who really knows the subject? (14)
17 Female easily carried instrument in black box (6,8)
21 Awfully nice gal, so kind and innocent (7)
23 Three men in a rowing boat, perhaps, showing one way to deal with locks (4,3)
25 Secure award for bravery husband put on seat (4,5)
26 Semi-circular area, approximately (5)
27 What hotel can represent in resort in excellent location (5)
28 Guns not well positioned in middle of major thoroughfare (9)

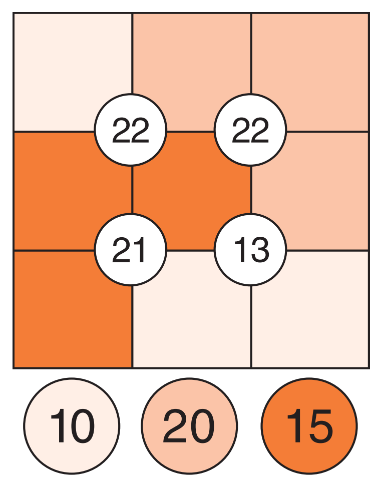
Down

1 Navigational guide read, lost at sea (8)
2 Man on board heard making laconic statement on retiring (5)
3 After short time replaced brute in one lively dance or another (9)
4 Must, after picking up another European, stop on voyage (5,2)
5 Lay a fish upside-down in small river (7)
6 Then again, holding one of our services is certainly not rare (5)
7 Calm surrounds bird landing after flight (9)
8 One line cast in burn, on the surface (6)
14 Young person in charge securing support, appealing to viewers (9)
15 Shown phone conversation briefly in two languages (9)
16 Continental peninsula, dry area surrounded by sea (8)
18 Arrange a couple of acts around old piece of music (7)
19 In bar, reading or writing piece of text (7)
20 Expert on selection naturally has centre half switched for draw at home (6)
22 Pronouncement of e.g. Yale or Oxford philosopher (5)
24 Inserting last of answers, complete patient solution and show irritation (5)

Solution No 28,613

T	A	O	I	S	E	A	C	H		I		K		O
H		U		A		B		A	U	C	T	I	O	N
E	A	T	I	N	T	O		R		E		N		E
L		P		D		M		V		B	A	G	E	L
A	D	A	P	T	A	B	L	E		O				I
W		T		R				S	I	X	T	E	E	N
		I		A	B	A	F	T				X		E
B	L	E	E	P		U		E		C	H	A	I	R
L		N				T	I	D	A	L		S		
U	N	T	R	U	T	H				A		P		E
E				P		O	V	E	R	W	H	E	L	M
F	L	O	S	S		R		L		B		R		C
U		U		H		E		E	M	A	N	A	T	E
N	O	S	H	O	W	S		M		C		T		E
K		T		T		S	T	I	C	K	Y	E	N	D

Suko No 3813



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct.

Solution MindGames in Saturday Review

Quiz answers 1 China. 2 Ferris Wheel. 3 Dr John Watson. 4 *The Crucible.* 5 Eamonn Holmes. 6 Indonesia. 7 Wheelie bin. 8 Woody Woodpecker. 9 HMS Resolution. 10 Commodus. 11 Drambuie. 12 Florida. 13 Guts (courage). 14 Angela Kelly. 15 Jack Sheppard. 16 Pecha Kucha. 17 Michael Abels. 18 Black and white chequered flag. 19 Eddie Hall. 20 Newcastle upon Tyne.

Concise Quintagram answers
1 Mock 2 Mullet 3 Thicken 4 Booster 5 Foul play.











LOOK BEYOND

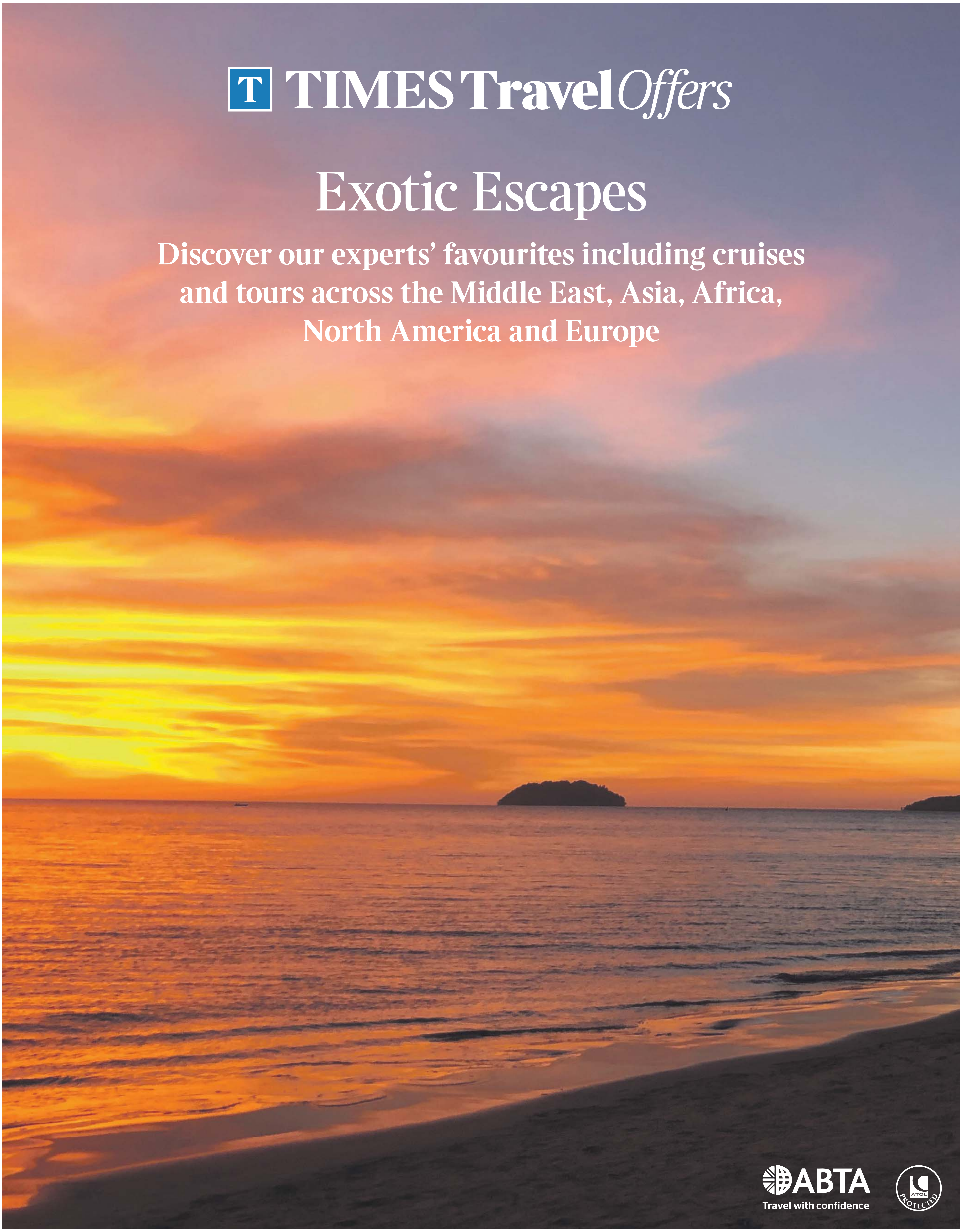
Be it above or below the surface, exploring the unknown is, by nature, unpredictable. To unveil its mysteries, two things are needed. A steadfast willingness to push one's limits always further. And a strong, unwavering ally to fuel your confidence. Over the past 70 years, we have constantly perfected the Submariner to make it the tool watch of reference for the pioneers of the marine world. Yet you need not swim 300 metres deep, or endure 30 bars of pressure, to field-test it. Diving into the unknown can be an exhilarating experience, in any circumstance. All it really takes is to look beyond the surface. **The Submariner.**

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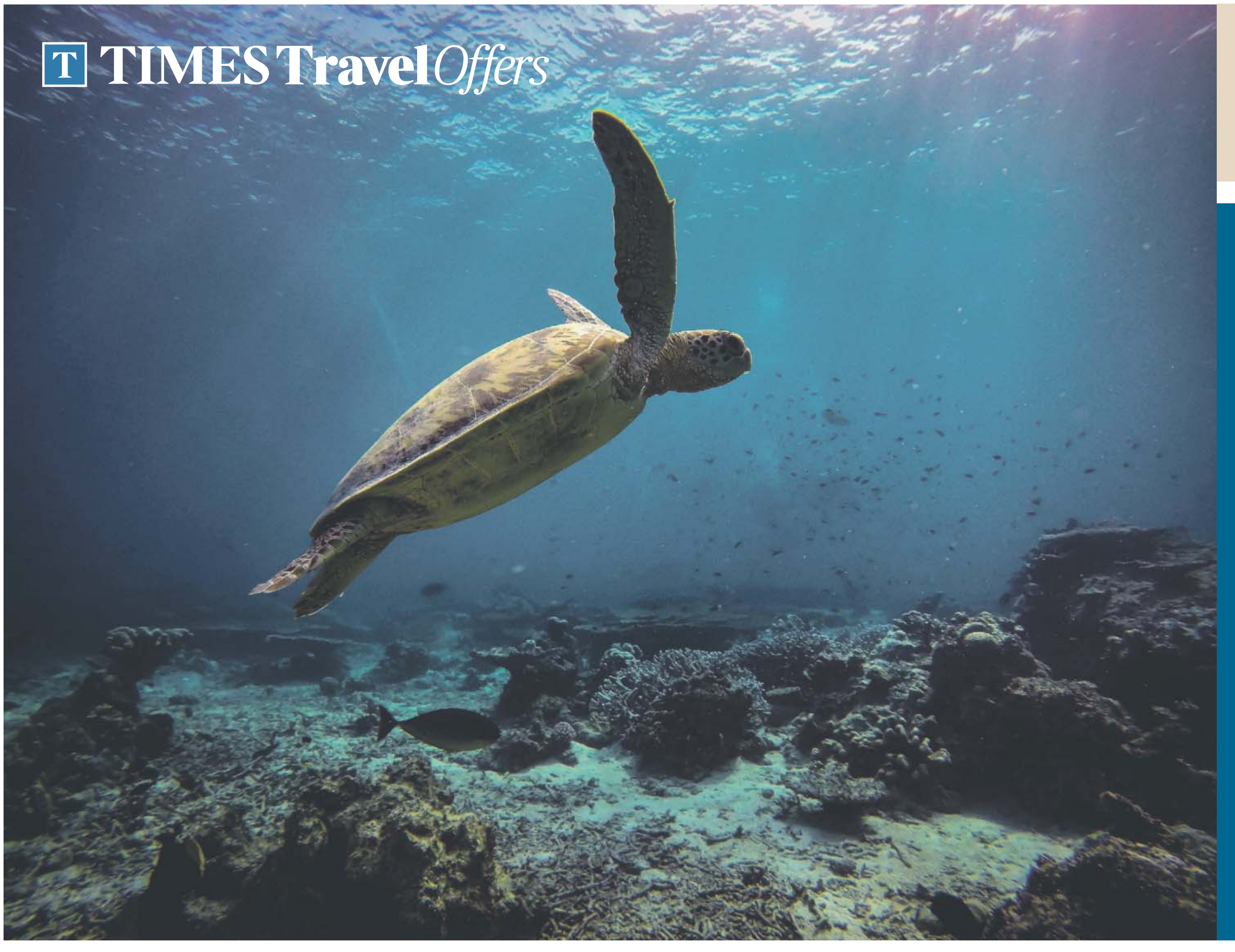


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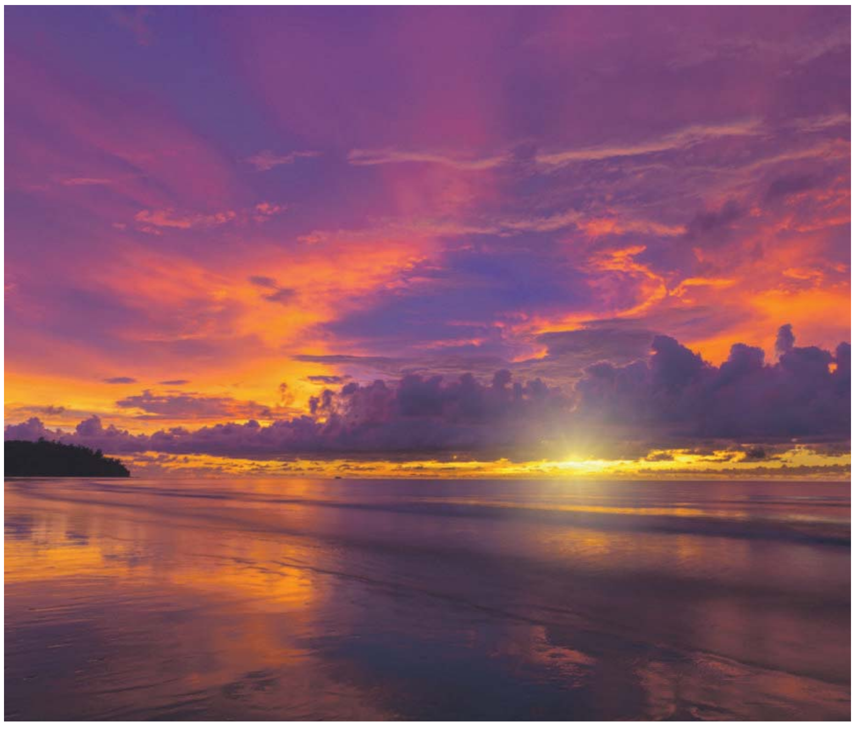
Malaysia is a country of two halves. To the east is the island of Borneo with jungles, orangutans and rivers. To the west is the Malaysian Peninsula with a blend of cultures, religion, colonial history and modern flair. As we make our way through these two distinct regions, we look for charismatic wildlife, delve into European, Malay, Chinese and Indian heritage, and enjoy spectacular beaches. We visit Buddhist temples and mosques, wander through rainforest trails and street-food markets and take in the sights, sounds, smells and flavours of a truly diverse country.

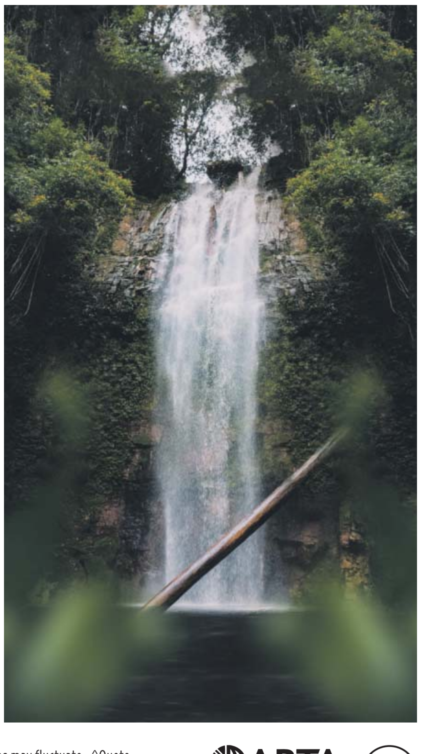
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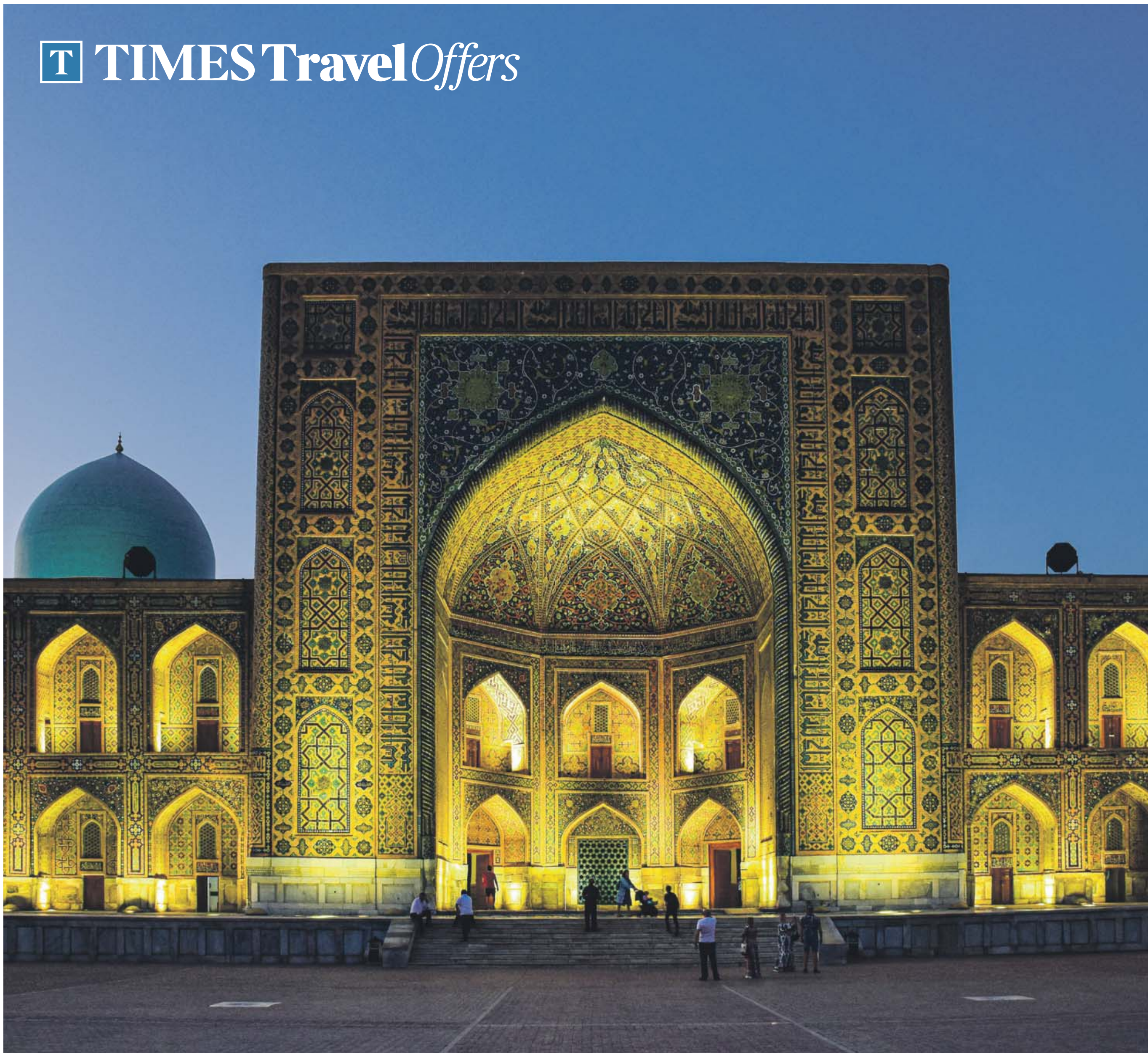
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- ✓ Countries visited: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan

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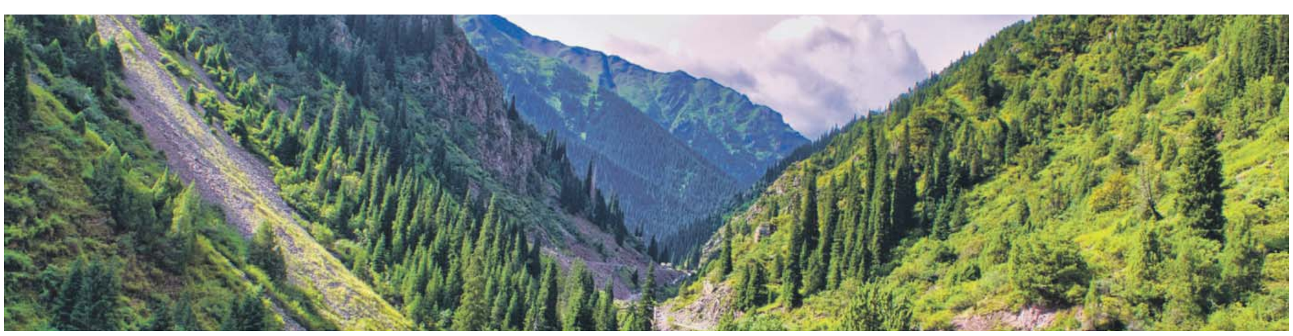
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Delve into the rich history of this proud nation, exploring iconic sights such as the magnificent Himeji and Matsumoto castles, soaking up the charms of timeless Kyoto and taking a moment to reflect on poignant events of the past in the now vibrant cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Throughout the tour you'll experience Japan's deep connection to the natural world, not least at Kenrokuen, one of the nation's Three Great Gardens. To fully appreciate iconic Mount Fuji, ascend 2,400 metres to the Fifth Station before a peaceful cruise on Lake Ashi, under Fuji's watchful gaze. Have your cameras at the ready in Yudanaka where, in hot water pools, adorable Japanese macaques, also known as snow monkeys, play.

Get hands-on with the tastes, flavours, and traditions of Japan with a range of interactive experiences – learn to make momiji manju (maple leaf bean buns), design your own sake cup while tasting this tasty rice wine, enjoy a sushi making lesson, visit the famous Nikka Whisky Factory, take part in a sacred tea ceremony, and try your hand at Japanese fan painting.

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This itinerary encompasses the best of the natural beauty and culture of Japan, with the majority of travel by world-famous bullet train. You will also experience an exclusive complimentary pre-tour extension when booking through Times Travel Offers.

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TOUR OF
Vietnam and Cambodia

This tour blends the best of Cambodia with Vietnam. Head to Siem Reap to explore the temple complex of Angkor before passing through Cambodia's charming capital, Phnom Penh, and into Vietnam

This tour is the perfect introduction to Vietnam, with cultural activities and plenty of opportunities to interact with the locals. Learn more about the Vietnam War in and around Saigon, and explore Hue for a glimpse of a magnificent imperial past. Hoi An will charm you with its cobble streets and scenic riverside setting, whilst capital city Hanoi boasts timeless streets full of local life, charming colonial architecture and a fascinating history to discover. The tour finishes as it started, with a showstopper – Halong Bay, where you'll take an overnight cruise out onto the calm waters and wend your way through the breathtaking karst scenery.

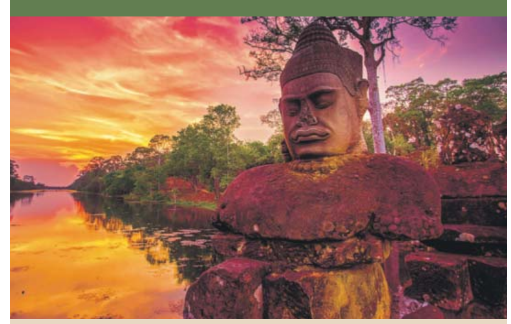
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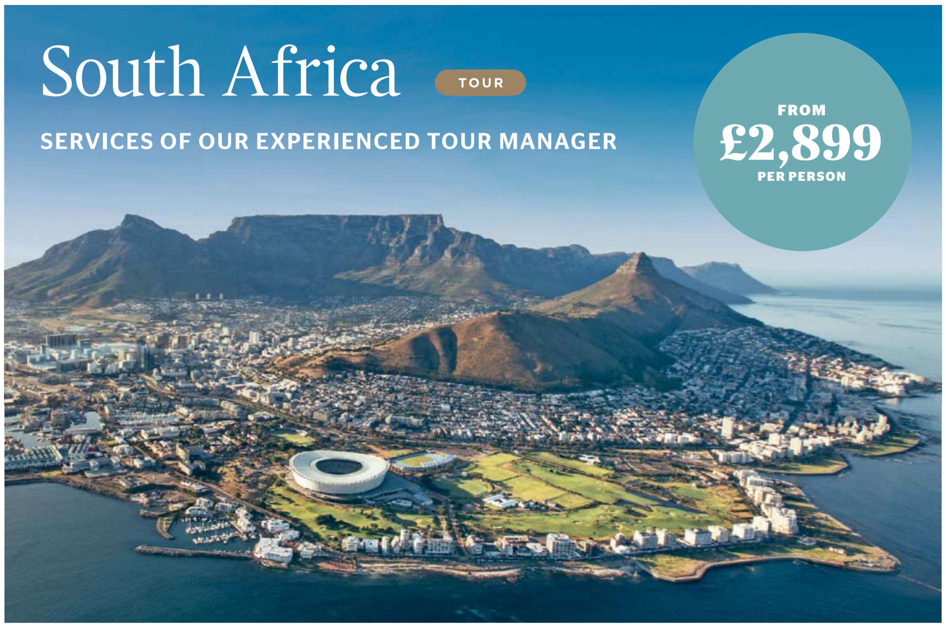
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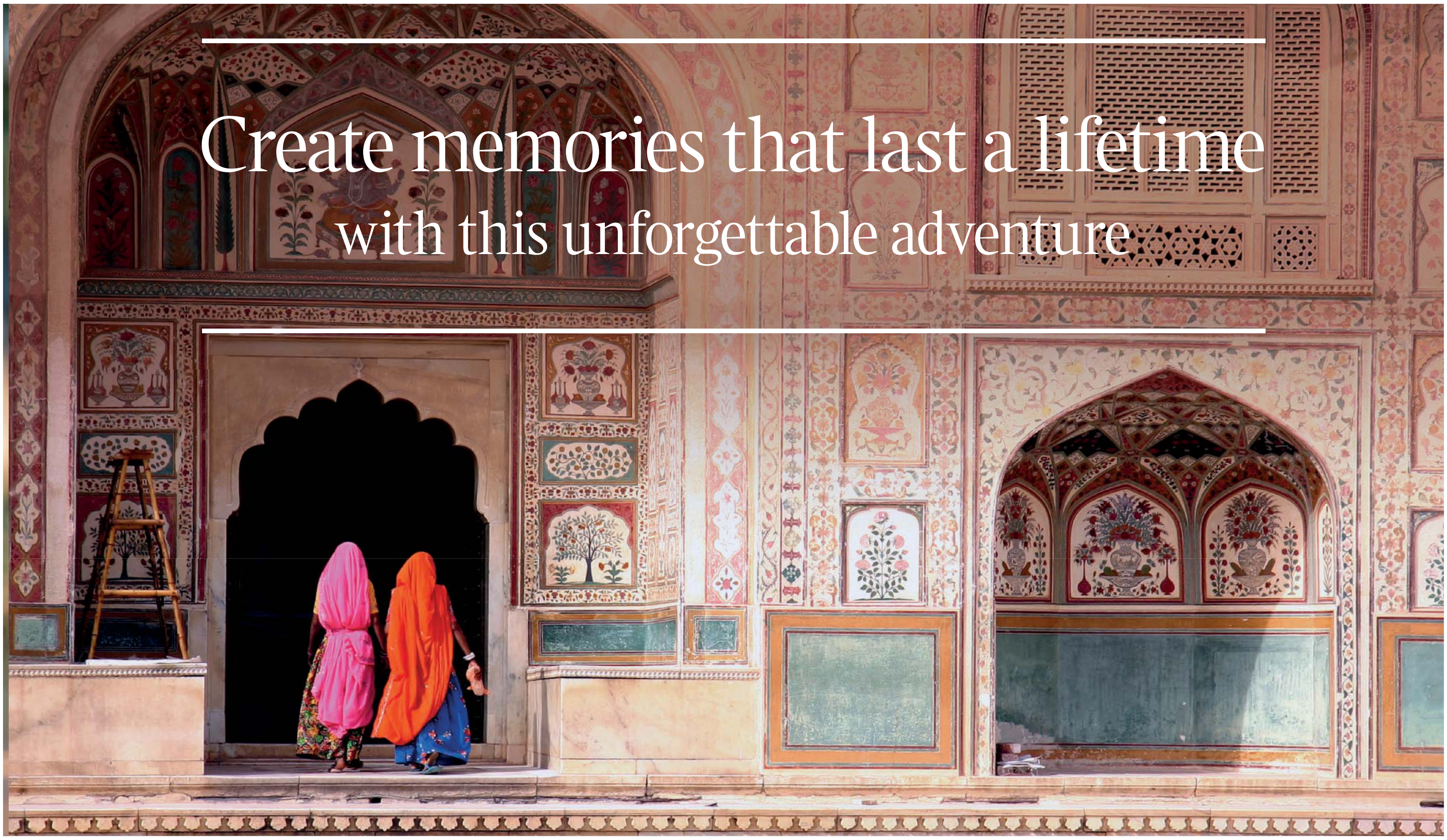
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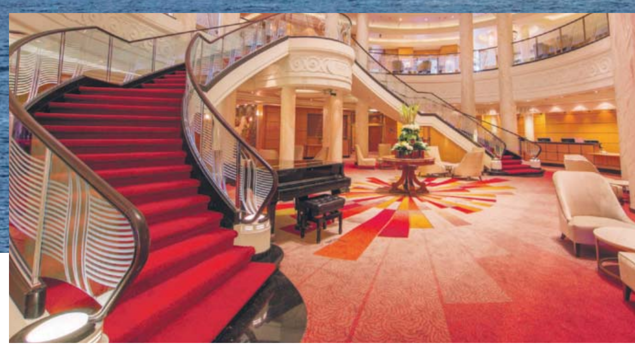
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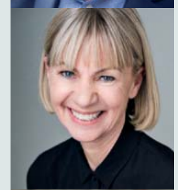
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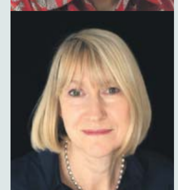
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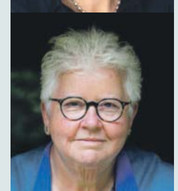
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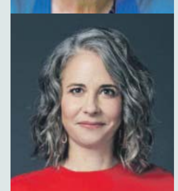
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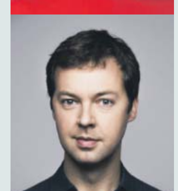
Val McDermid

Val McDermid has sold over 18.5 million books to date across the globe and is translated into more than 40 languages. She is perhaps best-known for her Wire in the Blood series.



Anna Murphy

Anna Murphy joined the Times as Fashion Director in 2015, having previously been the launch editor of Stella magazine at the Sunday Telegraph. Her latest book is called How Not To Wear Black.



Andrew Hunter Murray

Andrew Hunter Murray is an author, comedian and broadcaster. His Sunday Times-bestselling novel The Last Day was published in 2020 and was one of the top ten fiction debuts of that year; his second novel, The Sanctuary, was published in 2022.



Alan Titchmarsh MBE VMH DL

A gardener, writer, novelist and broadcaster best known for programmes such as Ground Force, The Chelsea Flower Show and Secrets of the National Trust. He has written more than fifty gardening books, and twelve novels, ten of which have made the Sunday Times Best-seller List.

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Sport

Froome is riding high

Still life in veteran ten years after first Tour de France win

PAGE 19





SURVIVAL SUNDAY

Only one of Everton, Leeds and Leicester will still be in the Premier League by tomorrow night, pages 2-3

Toney bet on own team to lose

Martyn Ziegler
Chief Sports Reporter

Ivan Toney's gambling addiction led to him using third parties to hide his betting from the Football Association and then to lie to investigators about his habit, the full findings of his disciplinary case have revealed.

The Brentford and England striker, who was banned for eight months until January 2024 after admitting to 232 breaches during a four-year period, bet on his own team to lose on 13 occasions, but never when he was in the team or eligible to play for them. The findings state the 27-year-old has had a gambling addiction diagnosed.

The written reasons show the FA called for a 12-month ban for Toney and pushed for the eight-month ban, which was immediately applied this month, not to start until next season, as the suspension covers the entire off-season. However, it also accepted that Toney's gambling addiction was a reason for mitigation.

Of the 13 bets, the findings state that "11 were against Newcastle whilst Mr Toney was on loan at another club" and the other two related to a game between Wigan Athletic and Aston Villa while Toney was on loan at Wigan but not part of the squad.

However, 15 bets or instructions to bet were placed by Toney on him scoring in nine matches that he played in — with the bets initiated by the striker "when it would not have been public knowledge that he was starting or playing in the fixture".

Toney joined Newcastle United in 2015 but played only two Premier League matches for the club, spending most of his time on loan at lower-league clubs, including Wigan from 2017 to 2018. He left Newcastle in 2018, joining Peterborough United, then moved to Brentford in 2020.

Toney admitted that he "repeatedly lied" in an interview with the FA in October and told the governing body "time after time" that he did not bet on football.

The disciplinary commission ruled that Toney was aware that betting on football was not permitted and that "the reason for using third parties and their betting accounts was to conceal football betting from the FA in case there was ever an investigation".

Gareth Southgate, the England manager, this week criticised the restrictions on Toney, which mean he

Continued on page 5

Cycling trans ban is an act of violence, claims Bridges

Martyn Ziegler
Chief Sports Reporter

The rider Emily Bridges has accused British Cycling of an "act of violence" in response to the announcement of a permanent ban on transgender women taking part in all-female competitive events.

The policy means Bridges, a transgender woman, will have to race in a new "open" category that replaces the men's category, with the national governing body saying the move has been driven by the need for "fairness". It is due to be in place by the end of the year to cover all British Cycling-sanctioned competitive events.

Bridges posted a lengthy statement on Instagram calling British Cycling a "failed organisation" and questioning whether she will continue to race.

She wrote: "British Cycling has just banned us from racing. The same organisation with actively homophobic coaches, who encouraged eating disorders and did nothing about any bullying between its riders. The same organisation where elite riders influence their policy when it doesn't fit their entitled and narrow world view, with no ability for nuance or any desire to question the view that they've been told since birth.

"I don't even know if I want to race my bike any more, the danger and everything that would come with racing makes it a pretty hard thing to justify to myself." In 2017, an independent

Continued on page 18

Prayers, flares and a Strachan

Martyn Hardy, Paul Joyce

Before Sam Allardyce was appointed by Leeds United 23 days ago, his days had a steady routine. A walk around the reservoir near his home, a poached egg and cup of tea, and a look at what Netflix had to offer. Then maybe another walk around the reservoir.

"It's pretty goddam boring," Allardyce, 68, reflected yesterday.

That life awaits Allardyce again unless Leeds can somehow clamber above Leicester City and Everton tomorrow afternoon. He described the three-way fight to avoid the two remaining Premier League relegation places as a "live or die" experience, and he knows that Leeds have the weakest hand of the trio. Even if they beat Tottenham Hotspur at Elland Road, they will go down if either Everton beat Bournemouth or Leicester beat West Ham United. Even an Everton draw could trump a Leeds victory.

Allardyce says that it will hurt him deeply to lose the thrill of managing so soon after rediscovering it. "I love thinking about what we're going to do and what we're not going to do, and dealing with young players keeps you young," he said.

With the Premier League's other significant battles all fought and won before the final round of fixtures, the scrap to survive will command the nation's attention tomorrow, especially given the status of the three clubs involved. Yes, there are parachute payments next season, but relegation from the richest league in the world means job cuts, player sales and a trauma that can last decades.

Everton are the only ones with their fate in their own hands, and with raucous support that may extend beyond Goodison Park itself: Gary O'Neil, the Bournemouth head coach, said that his team are prepared for a late-night firework display outside their Merseyside hotel in the early hours of Sunday.

If Sean Dyche's team do survive, they will look to the prospect of a new stadium and hope this latest chapter in their story of underachievement can be swept under a new blue carpet.

It is, of course, not quite that simple, given their woeful form. Everton have won only one of their past ten games, but that was a hammering of Brighton & Hove Albion that no one saw coming. If they fail to win, Leicester, who drew 0-0 with Newcastle in their previous game, would survive by beating West Ham at the King Power Stadium. If Leicester win, it is hard to see Leeds, who are level on points, making up a goal difference swing of nine, should they record a rare victory.

Allardyce admitted his big disappointment is that it is not in Leeds's hands, which is no surprise given that they have taken one point from a possible nine since his shock appointment.

Dyche said that, when he accepted the challenge of reviving the club's fortunes, he would have settled for Everton being in control of their Premier League destiny going into the final day. Any talk of form, style or long-term plans has, at this stage, gone out of the window. Everton were second-bottom and two points adrift of safety when Dyche succeeded Frank Lampard as head coach in January. He was, unsurprisingly, keen to remind people of that.

"Yeah, it's easy to forget, isn't it?" said Dyche, who will be without Dominic Calvert-Lewin, a potentially key absentee up front. "I came here and they were three points inside the relegation zone [it was actually two]. Now we are two points out of it. Five [four] points doesn't sound a lot, but when you factor in all the injuries that we have had and what has gone on, you would have taken it.

"Many people were saying, then, that we were done. We have shifted considerably, but the biggest measure is the end of the season. The most important league table is the final one. That's the one that is left."

Then, of course, there are the numbers. A Premier League club will earn a basic sum of about £100 million just through the television deal. The first year of potentially three diminishing parachute payments after relegation is less than half that. Keep Everton up and Dyche will pocket a £1.5 million bonus. For Allardyce that would be £2.5 million. He could buy his own lake.

"I'm a glutton for punishment," Allardyce added. People said, 'What the hell do you think you're doing?' when I came back, only for four games. I've given it my best shot and I've enjoyed it as best you can. I've loved the mood. I've loved the application. Here is where we are going to live or die on Sunday in terms of the result."

Gordon Strachan gave a talk yesterday to the Leeds players, who have trained at Elland Road this week. Any idea could work, so every idea has been tried. Allardyce bemoaned the overcomplication of football during his 23 months out of the game.

Dean Smith, the Leicester manager, who, like Dyche and Allardyce, was parachuted into a club in freefall, kept his message simple. "We have got to win the game, plainly and simply," he said. "We have to win and not look at the Everton result until after the game. We have to do our job and see where it takes us." Leicester have managed only one victory in their past 15 matches.

"All we can do is win the football match and pray," Allardyce said. "Is that the right word, pray? Is it? Let's hope the gods look after us and all the other results go for us."

God, poached eggs and fireworks. It should be some finish to the season.

Premier League

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Man City (C)	37	28	5	4	94	32	62	**89**
2	Arsenal	37	25	6	6	83	43	40	**81**
3	Man Utd	37	22	6	9	56	42	14	**72**
4	Newcastle	37	19	13	5	67	32	35	**70**
5	Liverpool	37	19	9	9	71	43	28	**66**
6	Brighton	37	18	8	11	71	51	20	**62**
7	Aston Villa	37	17	7	13	49	45	4	**58**
8	Tottenham	37	17	6	14	66	62	4	**57**
9	Brentford	37	14	14	9	57	46	11	**56**
10	Fulham	37	15	7	15	54	51	3	**52**
11	Crystal Palace	37	11	11	15	39	48	-9	**44**
12	Chelsea	37	11	10	16	37	46	-9	**43**
13	Wolves	37	11	8	18	31	53	-22	**41**
14	West Ham	37	11	7	19	41	53	-12	**40**
15	Bournemouth	37	11	6	20	37	70	-33	**39**
16	Nottm Forest	37	9	10	18	37	67	-30	**37**
17	Everton	37	7	12	18	33	57	-24	**33**
18	Leicester	37	8	7	22	49	67	-18	**31**
19	Leeds	37	7	10	20	47	74	-27	**31**
20	Southamptn (R)	37	6	6	25	32	69	-37	**24**

Relegation battle

Sunday's remaining fixtures, 4.30pm

Everton Bournemouth (h) Sky Sports ME
Beat Bournemouth and they are safe, regardless of other results. A draw will be enough if Leicester fail to beat West Ham and Leeds do not beat Tottenham by three goals. A defeat means they will be down if either Leicester or Leeds win

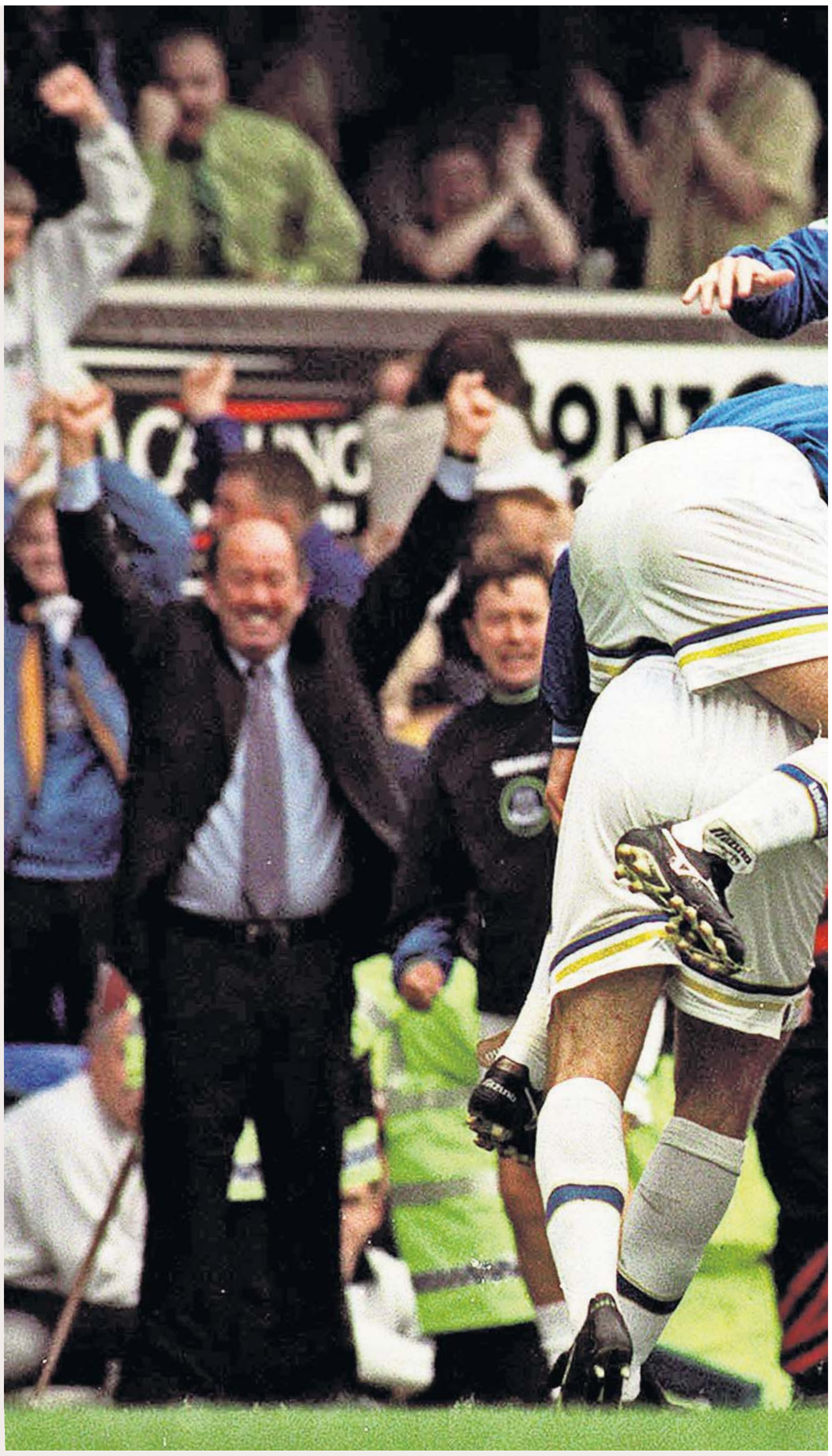
Leicester West Ham (h) Sky Sports PL
They will be relegated unless they win and Everton don't win

Leeds Tottenham Hotspur (h) BT Sport 1
They must win to have any hope of staying up - but both Everton and Leicester have to fail to win.

How Everton beat the drop on the final day in 1998

Paul Joyce
Northern Football Correspondent

The previous time Everton's Premier League status was in the balance going into the final day of the season was in 1998. Howard Kendall's side were in the bottom three and hosted Coventry City, needing to better Bolton Wanderers' result away to Chelsea to stay up.



THE BUILD-UP

Adrian Heath *The Everton assistant manager and former striker, who won two league titles, an FA Cup and Uefa Cup Winners' Cup. He is now the head coach of Minnesota United*

It was probably the biggest game of all my time at Everton. Howard [Kendall] had taken us to a hotel over the water, Thornton Hall, the night before and I remember sitting with him and Viv [Busby, assistant manager] after dinner for a couple of glasses of wine. The boss just said: "Everything we have ever achieved will go out the window if we get relegated, boys."

It was one of those things that resonated straight away. Waking up on the morning of the game, I had a knot in my stomach. For me, and the boss whose career was synonymous with Everton, it would have been the worst day of our football lives if we had gone down.

When we came through the Mersey tunnel en route to Goodison Park, there were blue shirts everywhere. I remember looking around and you could see the looks on the faces of the players. The enormity of the game had suddenly dawned on them. I was worried.

Duncan Ferguson *The Everton captain, who is now the head coach of Forest Green Rovers*

The pressure was intense, almost unbearable. Being the captain, I felt like the weight of the world was all on my shoulders. It wasn't, obviously, but that's just how I felt. I'd be thinking: "Imagine being captain of one of the greatest clubs in the world and being relegated."

Alan Myers *The Everton press officer, who now works for Sky Sports*

Peter Johnson, the chairman, decided to record two versions of a post-match statement, one if we stayed up, one if we went down. In those days it would have been put out on *Everton ClubCall*, a telephone service.

When he said: "The relegation of this great club is a terrible tragedy," it really hit me as to the severity of the situation. Then he said: "Alan, if you put the wrong one out, you're sacked, don't you?"

David Burrows *The Coventry left back who had a six-month spell at Everton in 1994-95. He now runs a holiday lettings business in France*

Consecutive seasons in top-flight

Everton are among six clubs that remain ever present in PL since 1992

Arsenal	97
Everton	69
Liverpool	61
Man Utd	48
Tottenham	45
Chelsea	34

Going up to Goodison, I knew exactly how the Everton players would be feeling. Coventry had stayed up on the final day of the previous season, beating Tottenham 2-1. Being in that situation was horrible.

You think: "I could be in the team that takes the club down." That is how Everton will be feeling, with all the added history of the club. You can't imagine a Premier League without Everton.

SEVEN MINUTES

Gareth Farrelly scores with a half-volley from the edge of the penalty area to give Everton the lead.

AH The strange thing was Howard picked the team the night before and Gareth wasn't in it. That wasn't unusual. He would quite often change when he'd had time to sleep on it. I don't remember who he had in mind instead, but that was Howard's genius. He had a feel for things.

DF The 1998 season was probably my best season for the club. I was scoring goals and I only got sent off once. I was playing in a bit of pain, but I wanted to do that for Howard and the fans. I remember heading the ball back for Gareth's goal. The noise was unbelievable.

Tony Grant *The former Everton player who is the assistant manager at Forest Green with Ferguson*

I had injured my knee early on in the season and was in the Main Stand watching. I know people don't like to hear it, but Everton is in your bones, it's in your DNA. The anxiety going into that game was huge and that will

rocket for sides facing crunch

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND



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Relieved fans celebrate on the Goodison Park pitch after Everton, who had taken the lead through Farrelly's strike in the first half, main image, stayed up

be the same against Bournemouth. I remember Gareth had a lot of shots that season but they had usually gone into Row Z.

HALF-TIME
Everton 1 Coventry City 0
DB We were told at the break, I'm not sure whether it was a steward or the police, to get back to the tunnel as soon as the final whistle went. We knew we weren't going to hang about.

73 MINUTES
Gianluca Vialli gives Chelsea the lead against Bolton
AM I spent much of the game running up and down the tunnel relaying the news from Stamford Bridge. When Vialli gave Chelsea the lead, I just remember a huge roar going around the ground.

84 MINUTES
Everton win a penalty for a Paul Williams foul on Danny Cadamarteri. Nick Barmby's effort is saved
DB It should never have been a penalty. Paul Williams is a friend and we still speak about it. He got the ball.

I can't imagine the pressure that must have been on Nick Barmby running up to take the kick in front of the Gwladys Street End. The goal gets smaller and Magnus Hedman was a big man.

89 MINUTES
Dion Dublin equalises with a header past Thomas Myhre
DB We knew what it meant to Everton but Gordon Strachan gave a big team talk a couple of days before. We had a decent season and wanted to finish strongly. Gordon made clear the responsibility we had as professionals to give everything.
DF The 'keeper should have saved it, but that's what pressure does to you.
AH Everyone had their radio on back then and you would hear these roars that so and so had scored. But it was incredibly nerve-racking.

90 MINUTES
Jody Morris wraps up a 2-0 Chelsea win
AH It is pure relief afterwards. I remember the big man [Ferguson] had no right to be playing. He had a hernia and he was getting through on adrenaline, injections and love of the club. Had we not had the likes of Waggy [Dave Watson] and Duncan, there was no way we would have stayed up. It took that type of character to get us over the line.
AM There was a pitch invasion at the end and Thomas Myhre was the only player who hadn't made it down the tunnel. I went searching for him and when he appeared out of the crowd, he said: "Did we stay up?" I just said: "Do you think you'd still be standing if we hadn't?" Then he ran back into the fans to celebrate.
TG I went to see the lads afterwards, I remember Duncan was crying in the dressing room. Just pure relief. Then myself and a few of the players, including Franny Jeffers, went to the pub to celebrate with the fans.
DF I wasn't the only one in tears. It felt like a pressure valve had been released. All the emotions come out. We were all upset, Howard too, and then there was a feeling of euphoria that we had managed to stay up. Winning the FA Cup in 1995 was fantastic, something that goes down in history, but going into that Coventry game I would have given anything not to be relegated.

So on to Sunday, when the board of directors will be absent after protests against them
AH It is a sad indictment of what the past few years have been like that Graeme Sharp, one of the all-time great players, cannot go to the stadium. He only went on to the board of directors to try to help; he's not making big decisions.

Dychey [Sean Dyche] was a good appointment. The pragmatism that he brings will just about get them over the line but, as we said this time last year, there have got to be changes. We can't go through this again. If we get away with it this time, we have been lucky.
DF I think "we" will be OK. The results have gone for us lately and it's in our own hands, unlike in 1998. The players will step up; some have the experience of last season when it went down to the penultimate game.

Leicester undone by player unrest and board's indecision

Charlotte Duncker



Along the carefully designed corridors of Leicester City's state-of-the-art Seagrave training base are pictures of the squad during happier moments.

The unprecedented 5,000-1 title win in 2016, the FA Cup triumph five years later and celebrations of important goals, all selected by Jon Rudkin, the director of football, to remind visitors of their remarkable recent success.

Regardless of whether Leicester pull off the great escape tomorrow, Rudkin will be in no rush to feature any of this season's action when it comes to updating the images this summer.

The downfall has been slowly creeping up on Leicester in the past couple of years through a combination of Financial Fair Play restrictions and poor transfer decisions. They have been sleepwalking towards a catastrophe.

Eight first-teamers — Youri Tielemans, Jonny Evans, Ryan Bertrand, Daniel Amartey, Caglar Soyuncu, Nampalys Mendy, Ayoze Pérez and Hamza Choudhury — are out of contract, while James Maddison, the playmaker, is also expected to leave to raise funds for reinvestment. For a club that not so long ago was lauded for its business model, the situation is remarkable.

Brendan Rodgers, the manager of four years who was sacked at the start of April, saw this coming last season. Even before he publicly hit out at his squad and demanded a significant rebuild after a 4-1 hammering in the FA Cup at the hands of Nottingham Forest, then in the Championship, he knew he was approaching the end of a cycle. "There are a lot of these players, between now and the end of the season, who need to prove that they are still worthy of being here," he said after the cup tie.

Predictably, these comments went down like lead balloon in the dressing room. Many players looked for an exit, but the asking prices prevented several from leaving. Rodgers had to work out how to motivate a divided group while being unable to make significant additions due to financial restrictions.

During the summer he had been talking to prospective new additions, but it soon became clear that he would not get who he wanted. The previous summer, Leicester had invested close to £60 million on Patson Daka, Boubakary Soumaré and Jannik Vestergaard without a significant sale.

Rodgers took his squad to Mont Blanc for a trek this pre-season in the hope of renewing the team spirit. It did not work. Even before a ball had been kicked, there were murmurs that he had fallen out with certain individuals. Kasper Schmeichel, the title-winning goalkeeper who had spent 11 years at the club, unexpectedly departed for Nice with little fanfare even though the club were unable to spend the money to bring in a top-level replacement.

One of Rodgers's biggest irks was that Ademola Lookman, who had impressed on loan in the previous season, was not able to come despite a relatively low fee of around £14 million. He moved to Atalanta instead, where he has 15 goals this season — three more than Harvey Barnes, Leicester's leading goalscorer. Wout Faes was the only summer arrival, with Victor Kristiansen and Harry Souttar boosting the squad in January, but it hasn't been enough.

In Rodgers's final few weeks, sources described the atmosphere in the dressing room as stale, but he had a close relationship with the board and that helped him. He was afforded time and patience because of his work in previous years, with consecutive fifth-place finishes and the FA Cup win giving him credit in the bank.

But that relationship ended up hindering the survival bid. Aiyawatt 'Top' Srivaddhanaprabha waited too long. His decision to sack Rodgers after a 2-1 defeat by Crystal Palace on April 1 was reactionary and there was no plan in place for a replacement.

They gambled with caretaker coaches — Adam Sadler, a former goalkeeper at non-league level and the first-team coach, and Mike Stowell, the goalkeeper coach — but Leicester lost two crucial home games, 2-1 against Aston Villa and 1-0 against Bournemouth.

When Dean Smith eventually arrived to take over with eight league games remaining, he found a fractured squad. Would it have made a difference if he had been brought in earlier? It could not have been any worse.

His plan was to bring the players back together. Jamie Vardy, with whom Rodgers had fallen out because of a disagreement over whether he was capable of starting, was brought back into the XI. Vestergaard, who had been banned from the training ground after giving an unauthorised interview, was allowed back and Soyuncu, who had been made to train in the afternoons with Bertrand, was back in the fold.

Smith knew the job he was facing would be a tough one, but sources say he was surprised at just how divided the group had become. He knew that games against Manchester City and Newcastle United would be the most difficult, but was confident of achieving results in the others. The 5-3 capitulation at Fulham was his biggest disappointment and Smith had the players in on their day off as a result.

Rodgers's concern that some of the out-of-contract players had "checked out" or were protecting themselves from injury is something Smith has contemplated. The fault lies with none of the four who have taken charge this season, however, but instead with the board. Rodgers was set in his ways and could not adapt, and Smith came in too late, but neither was aided by poor decision-making above them.

Leicester may well beat West Ham and pull off a miracle arguably greater than their survival under Nigel Pearson in 2015, but whatever division they are in next season, a refresh is needed.

Fans' sympathy for banned Toney may quickly turn to revulsion

Martin Samuel



This changes everything. The knowledge that Ivan Toney bet on his own team to lose, bet on games with prized inside information, and did so, not once in a moment of pure weakness, but repeatedly over a significant period of time, explains why he will not be seen in the colours of Brentford, or any club, until January.

From a position where his punishment seemed harsh, at first, it now appears rather lenient. The FA has taken into account a psychological assessment that Toney's issue is addiction and not avarice, and that is the compassionate thing to do.

Toney's punishment is the least that can be expected, given the need for deterrent, yet it comes with the acknowledgement of a problem requiring treatment. Sport's link to gambling, and gambling companies, does not leave much room for draconian sentences and pious sermons, however. When Toney returns next season he may still be expected to run around with the logo of Hollywoodbets, Brentford's shirt sponsor, on his chest. The club are seeking a replacement, in light of the ban on gambling advertising on the front of shirts coming in for the 2026-27 season, but nothing as yet has been agreed.

So the sport is compromised, but supporters are not. And it is the supporters who are entitled to feel greatest disappointment, even revulsion, here. Followers of Wigan Athletic, for instance, where Toney was on loan in 2017-18, must feel let down. Twice Toney bet against the club, knowing he was not playing. He was not the most prolific goalscorer back then, six goals across all competitions in 12 starts and 16 substitute appearances, but even so — Toney knew something Wigan fans did not and sought to profit from it.

Season tickets are expensive, even in League One. Maybe the regulars would have fancied trying for a partial refund too, given the information that the striker was out. As for betting against his parent club, Newcastle United, which Toney did repeatedly, while he may have been in no position to influence the matches directly, it would be impossible to argue he did not know people within the club, and could have mined access to privileged information about team selection, injuries or mood.

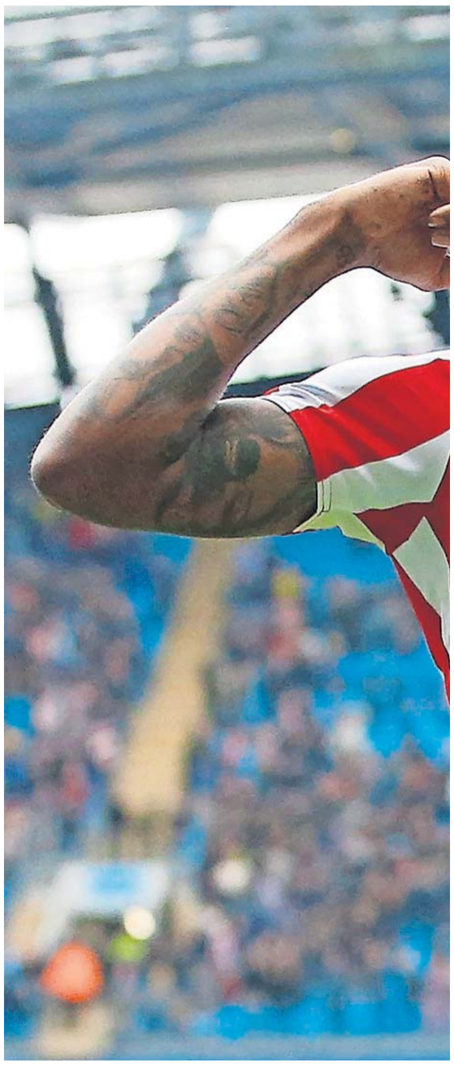
That's why all football bets are banned within football. Toney has played for eight different clubs and will have made friends at them all throughout his career. Those players then move on. Every player has a network of mates and acquaintances playing throughout the pyramid. Toney would not have had to be within the Newcastle camp to be better informed about the team's chances.

"The commission noted that none of the charges related to events where Ivan could negatively impact his own team," read a statement from Brentford, but that conclusion is open to question. Even betting on himself to score, which some see as a meaningless act of self-confidence, risks the integrity of the game. Would Toney have squared a pass to a team-mate with a better shot at goal, would he have argued to take a penalty, as a result of his investment? In cricket, a compromise of this nature creeps across a blurred line from betting to match-fixing. The FA has in many ways taken the most generous view of Toney's activities.

Gareth Southgate, the England manager, also spoke with kindness, questioning whether a ban that prevented Toney even entering the premises at Brentford — from stadium to training ground — until September, was the best way to treat an individual with a problem.

"We've got to look after people," he said. "He's injured at the moment, what does he do about getting fit? How do we give him some structure over the next few months so that he can develop himself or be a better person at the end of it? I don't like the idea we just leave somebody, that they're not allowed to be part of the football community. I don't think that's how we should work, how the best rehabilitation programmes work."

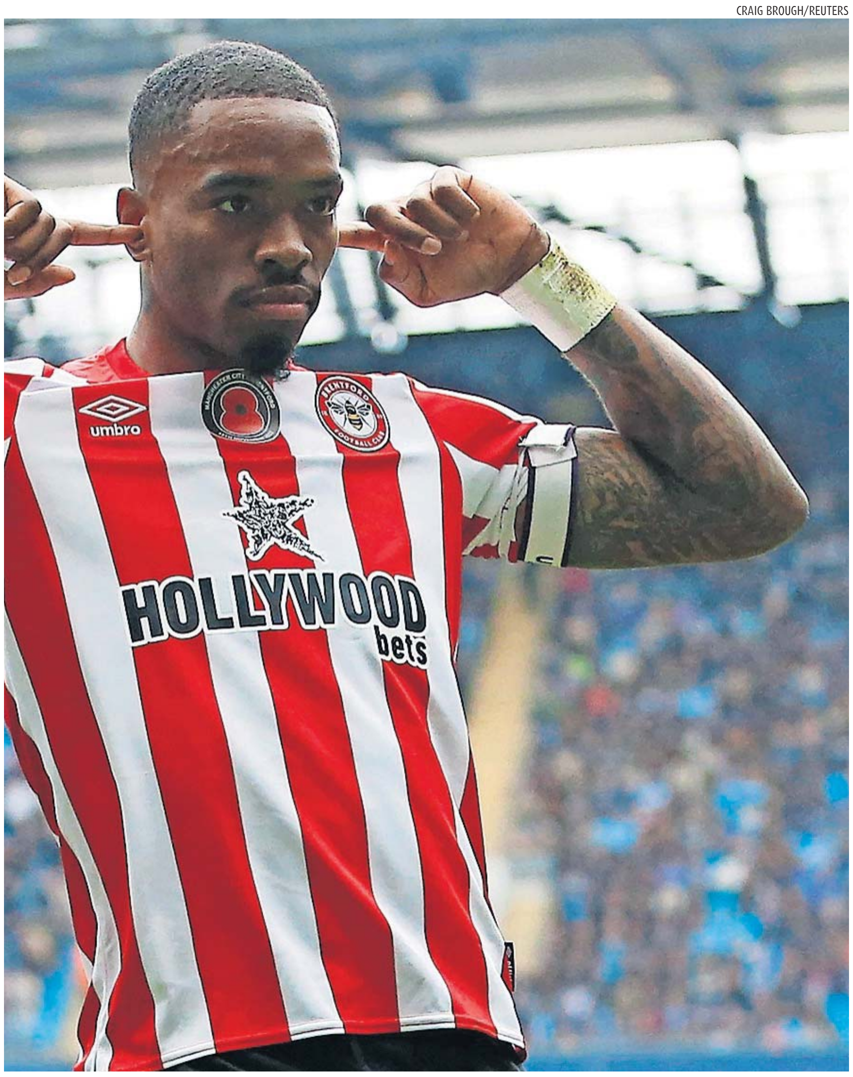
And he's right, it isn't. Yet it is also impossible to divorce Toney entirely from the consequence of his actions, when they risked compromising his sport. We can debate the inconsistency of football's links to gambling, the need for rehabilitation as much as punishment, the many nuanced layers that are always sifted through at moments like this; but the details of Toney's actions are unavoidably serious. Every fan has the right to know that what they see over 90 minutes is straight. Without that assurance, there is no game; and that's why Toney is banned.



Brentford are currently seeking a new



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CRAIG BROUGH/REUTERS

shirt sponsor to replace Hollywoodbets in time for the start of the 26/27 season

'Suspension reflects his addiction'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

cannot train with Brentford until mid-September. Before the final round of matches tomorrow, Toney sits third in the Premier League goalscoring charts for the season with 20 goals.

The conclusion of the judgment by David Casement KC says: "The FA invited the commission to order that the suspension begin at the commencement of next season given the player would not be playing in any event over the summer break and therefore a suspension is meaningless to that extent.

"Alternatively, the FA contended a period of suspension could be added on to reflect the lack of football activity over the summer. The commission does not accept the premise behind that submission, namely that it is appropriate to tailor a period of suspension around the ability of a player to actually play football. The period of suspension therefore began immediately after the decision was notified."

A psychiatrist, Dr Philip Hopley, attended the disciplinary hearing and identified that Toney has a gambling addiction.

"The commission finds that a significant reduction should be made to reflect the diagnosed gambling addiction identified by Dr Hopley," the findings state. "The lack of control the player has in respect of gambling is clearly a reflection of his addiction. The present case is not one of match-fixing. If it were, the charges would have been pursued under different provisions.

"There is no evidence that Mr Toney did or was even in a position to influence his own team to lose when he placed bets against them winning — he was not in the squad or eligible to play at the time."

Toney indicated yesterday that he would respond to the release of the full findings in due course. "I'll speak soon with no filter," he wrote on Twitter.

The Brentford manager, Thomas Frank, declared Toney his player of the season and said the club would support him. He also questioned the close relationship between football and the gambling industry, with most clubs having a betting partner yet all those involved in the game being banned from gambling on football.

Frank said: "Ivan made mistakes. Now he needs to get through that and we need to support him. There is no doubt that football and gambling's relationship needs to be reviewed.

"We definitely got a massive reminder of: 'Do we do enough to educate our players?' The authorities have a massive task to make sure that we do this much better."

Brentford indicated there would be no appeal against the length of the ban and added: "The commission noted that none of the charges related to events where Ivan could negatively impact his own team. The club will now be doing everything possible to provide support to Ivan and his family.

"We consider this matter closed and look forward to welcoming Ivan back to training in September and seeing him representing Brentford in January."

New deal for Newcastle's Guimarães

Jason Mellor

Newcastle United are set to reward Bruno Guimarães with an improved contract, in part as recognition of the midfield player's role in helping them seal a top-four finish but also as an insurance policy against big-money suitors who are circling for the Brazilian.

It comes as Eddie Howe, the Newcastle head coach, admitted that the club's return to the Champions League does not make them immune from bids for their top players.

Howe is set to meet the St James' Park hierarchy next week to finalise the club's summer transfer plans, where he hopes to be given the green light to bring in at least three new signings.

On the transfer market protection provided by their newly earned Champions League status, Howe said: "Possibly. I say that because you never know in football. I'd love to keep the squad together this summer, if we can strengthen rather than weaken."

On a potential new deal for 25-year-old Guimarães, who is contracted until 2026 and is attracting interest from Real Madrid, Howe added: "The club will be keen to protect their assets and be ahead of the curve in terms of contract length to make sure we're in a strong position by recognising players who have done well and rewarding them."



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Abject failure has ended Lampard's hopes of landing another top job

Alyson Rudd



Even if Newcastle United rip Chelsea apart at Stamford Bridge on Sunday, there will still be room in the hearts of the home fans to laud Frank Lampard. There will be a delineation, though. They will sing about Lampard the midfielder, integral to the club's success under Roman Abramovich's ownership, and not Lampard the manager.

It may be considered unfair to cast judgment on the former England international's coaching abilities given he was an emergency appointment in April after the dismissal of Graham Potter. However, this has been a season of turnover turmoil and we have seen managers arrive, take control, impose their personality and make a difference. Lampard took on a bloated, stuttering side and headed towards the icebergs.

There was no "new manager bounce". Chelsea lost to Wolverhampton Wanderers, Real Madrid twice, Brighton & Hove Albion, Brentford, Arsenal, Manchester City and Manchester United and drew at home to Nottingham Forest. Lampard's only victory has been against a Bournemouth team who were justifiably celebrating safety from relegation.

Two weeks before Chelsea turned to Lampard, Roy Hodgson was appointed at Crystal Palace to replace the sacked Patrick Vieira. Palace were at marginal risk of relegation and also playing inhibited football, rather like Chelsea.

Hodgson knew the club well, just as Lampard knew Chelsea, but the 75-year-old understood immediately what was required, and the team started not just winning but winning in style. Where there had been doubt, he instilled confidence. Palace became a joy to watch and they skipped up the table.

Lampard, instead, seemed out of his depth. It was an interim role he could not refuse given his Chelsea connections. It was also achingly seductive. He had the chance to lead the team in the Champions League quarter-finals against Real. He could achieve what had been denied him in his first stint as manager and lead the club to a European title.

Lampard really had no choice, but his decision may have severe repercussions when it comes to the remainder of his managerial career.

Significantly, the defeats were not entirely a consequence of poor recruitment. Lampard's line-ups were often baffling and regularly defensive, coy and unimaginative. João Félix is a class apart from the other Chelsea attackers, but has largely been kept in reserve by Lampard, as if the former Everton and Derby County manager believed bigger games were around the corner. And for a manager who believes in youth, he oddly cannot see that César Azpilicueta is too slow to be a full back. "Normally you have the process of a pre-season and time you can really work and talk and train," Lampard said after Thursday night's loss to Manchester United. "We haven't had that sort of time."

Lampard came under attack from some quarters as soon as he was appointed at Derby in May 2018 for being a silver spoon coach, given a top job because of his reputation as a player.

This may have been true, but it was also unfair because all managers have egos, and none turn down good opportunities saying they need more time. But perhaps he did need longer to hone his craft and some jobs are simply too big for him. He lacks the panache, charisma and win ratio to be given another top role and has failed so miserably as caretaker that no board would now seriously turn to him in a crisis.

It is unclear whether Lampard sees his career in these terms. "Normally when you leave a club you don't have a big hurrah as a manager," he says. "You're in one day and you're out the next and that's fine. It doesn't feel odd to me and — this is the corny part — I will never feel like I am saying goodbye to the fans. My career as a player and as a coach, the first time around and in this period, it's there. More than anything, I would love to give them [the fans] a performance to take away for the summer."

Lampard was called to arms and that he did not turn his back on his beloved club is what matters to him. It may, though, stymie his managerial career.

OLI SCARFF/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



10 GAMES, ONE WIN

APRIL 8
Wolves 1
Chelsea 0
APRIL 12
Real Madrid 2
Chelsea 0
APRIL 15
Chelsea 1
Brighton 2
APRIL 18
Chelsea 0
Real Madrid 2
APRIL 26
Chelsea 0
Brentford 2
MAY 2
Arsenal 3
Chelsea 1
MAY 6
Bournemouth 1
Chelsea 3
MAY 13
Chelsea 2
Nottingham Forest 2
MAY 21
Man City 1
Chelsea 0
MAY 26
Man United 4
Chelsea 1

United 'close to new deal with De Gea'

Ian Whittell

Erik ten Hag has indicated for the first time that he expects David de Gea to agree a new deal and remain with Manchester United despite no sign of an end to the impasse in negotiations.

Reports have suggested that the veteran goalkeeper has agreed a new two-year contract "in principle". But there has been no official announcement that the Spaniard, a free agent next month, has signed.

It means that tomorrow's game against Fulham may be his final appearance at Old Trafford after 12 years at the club although, while Ten Hag refused to go into the intricacies, he does expect De Gea, 32, to agree a new deal. "I think we want him to stay and he wants to stay so I think we will find each other," he said. "I never give a comment about how negotiations are going."

De Gea has won the second Golden Glove award of his career this season, despite a number of high-profile and costly errors, but United now have Dean Henderson in the mix after a loan season with Nottingham Forest.

United are at a similar impasse with Marcus Rashford, who would be entering the final season of his contract in August if he does not sign an extension in the interim.

In the case of De Gea, the delay has been over his reported £375,000-a-week salary and United's desire for him to agree to a substantial pay cut.

And those two negotiations represent the first major order of business for United to conclude as they set about strengthening the squad this summer.

Meanwhile, as United look forward to the Champions League next season, the midfielder Bruno Fernandes insisted the dressing room was not satisfied by finishing in the Premier League's top four. "The belief has been always there because we believe since the beginning in the ideas of the manager, in the players that we have, since the beginning of the season until the end," he said. "That's why we get this position. But obviously, as players, we are not happy just to get the top four. We aim for more because we believe there is enough quality to go forward."



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Remarkable twist behind Dortmund's title charge

James Gheerbrant





TOM WELLER/AVALON



Haller overcame cancer, inset, to take Borussia Dortmund to the brink of the title

It has been a long 11 years for Borussia Dortmund and their supporters. No major European league has had a longer stranglehold than Bayern Munich's run of ten consecutive Bundesliga titles and, for most of that time, Dortmund have been their closest challengers. Some seasons, they fell short nobly; some seasons, they failed miserably. Some years, they lost their grip on springtime leads; some years, they fell away like autumn leaves.

As the drought dragged on, Dortmund seemed to acquiesce, realistically but painfully, to their second-rank status. "It's not part of our DNA to be obligated to be No1," Carsten Cramer, the managing director, told the *Financial Times* in 2018, as the club began to pursue more openly a strategy which sought to make a virtue of their place in the football ecosystem by positioning themselves as a developmental club for the best young players.

At times, it felt like a sensible compact with reality; at times, like a self-fulfilling complicity. Dortmund sold themselves as a stepping stone and, when the season reached its critical moment, they would duly get trodden on, squished under the heel of the cosmos. It had felt as though Dortmund's window of opportunity was narrowing. Bayern's financial advantage has cemented their status as the Bundesliga's elite club. RB Leipzig have been jostling for the status of Germany's second-best team. All the while, Dortmund were drained of more talent each summer.

Jude Bellingham, their one truly world-class player and even at 19 a key leader of the present team, is widely assumed to be leaving at the end of the season, probably to join Real Madrid. But he may yet depart with a medal round his neck. After all those years of disappointment, Dortmund are 90 minutes away from a ninth German title. Edin Terzic's team hold a two-point lead over Bayern and are assured of the *Meisterschale* if they beat Mainz 05 at the Westfalenstadion today.

The bald truth is that this is not a vintage Dortmund team: even if they win, they won't reach the 76 points achieved by Lucien Favre's runners-up in 2019, or the 78 Thomas Tuchel's contenders managed three years prior. There have been plenty of moments of frailty this season, not least the extraordinary game in Stuttgart last month when they threw away a 2-0 lead after 78 minutes, scored to go 3-2 up in the 92nd minute, then conceded a 97th-minute equaliser. But they have been good enough, so far, to take advantage of a dysfunctional Bayern campaign, steered through a critical post-World Cup run of nine wins in ten games by Terzic, a lifelong Dortmund fan who used to be just another brick in the Yellow Wall, and steeled by the return of a player who has been through an extraordinary ordeal.

Sébastien Haller was one of Dortmund's splashiest signings of last summer, the man given the impossible task of replacing Erling Haaland up front. But barely a week after the ink had dried on his contract, Haller had testicular cancer diagnosed after a tumour was discovered during a pre-season tour to Switzerland. He had to put football on hold and over the following months he underwent two operations and four cycles of chemotherapy.

Without him, his team-mates struggled and were sixth at the mid-season pause. One of the peculiarities of Haller's dreadful misfortune was that it came at such an auspicious moment in his career. After an unfulfilled spell at West Ham, he was coming off a magnificent season at Ajax. He had not only finished as the top scorer in the Dutch Eredivisie, but also performed at a sensational level in the Champions League, scoring 11 goals in eight games, in his maiden season in the tournament. (His career record in European competition is extraordinary: 16 goals and five assists in less than 1,600 minutes of Champions League and Europa League play.) Rare, indeed, is the striker who elevates themselves to the top in their late twenties, but Haller seemed like he might just be the exception. Instead, his trajectory took another exceptional twist. But remarkably, Haller was able to return to the Dortmund team in January, after the World Cup, and has played every game since. He took a little while to get up to speed, but recently, he has caught fire: of his nine goals this season, six have come in the past six games, plus two assists. And even more ineffable than his performance has been his effect on the team.

Haller said after scoring his first goal for Dortmund in February that part of the pleasure had been to "give happiness to the team" and Dortmund just seem buoyed by the joy of having their brother back.

There is a statistic that I've mentioned before, known as "on-off" and used in American sports, which is the difference between how a team performs when a player is on the pitch and when they're not. This season, Dortmund's goal differential has been better off by +2.09 goals per 90 minutes when Haller is on the pitch than when he has been absent.

In Europe's five major leagues, no player who has played between 25 and 75 per cent of the available minutes this season has had a greater transformative effect. Football is a game of fine margins, and who's to say that the sheer uplift of Haller's presence hasn't made the difference for Dortmund? Today, he has the chance to cap one of the most magical comeback stories of recent years.

Six months ago, it didn't feel like *Die Schwarzgelben* had much of an opportunity at all. But even the smallest window, every once in a while, is hit by the sun at just the right angle and the light comes flooding in.

Klopp: If any player wants to leave, I would drive him

Paul Joyce

Jürgen Klopp has said he would drive any dissenting player to a rival club should they decide they wanted to leave Liverpool because of the lack of Champions League football.

The Liverpool manager spoke out as he insisted Mohamed Salah "loves" life at Anfield, despite the Egyptian's emotional social media post on Thursday night after confirmation the club would finish the season in fifth position.

Manchester United's victory over Chelsea sealed a top-four finish and was immediately followed by an emotional outpouring from Salah.

"I'm totally devastated," he tweeted. "There's absolutely no excuse for this. We had everything we needed to make it to next year's Champions League and we failed.

"We are Liverpool and qualifying to the competition is the bare minimum. I am sorry but it's too soon for an uplifting or optimistic post. We let you and ourselves down."

Salah's comments will be picked up by some of Europe's elite, although Klopp remains convinced that the forward does not want to leave. Yet he added that he would not want any player anyway whose commitment was immediately compromised due to the failure to qualify for the Champions League for the first time since 2016.

"If ever a player would come to me, and said, 'Oh, we didn't qualify for the Champions League, I have to leave,' I would drive him to the other club myself. I would take the key [and say], 'Come in the car, where do you want to go, I drive you'. That would be something I never could understand."

Liverpool will try to begin their summer transfer activity early with Brighton and Hove Albion midfielder Alexis Mac Allister a target and Klopp adamant the club can bounce back.

Wigan hit with second four-point deduction

Wigan Athletic have been handed a second four-point penalty over late payment of wages and will start next season on minus eight points in League One.

The club were handed the initial deduction last week in response to two late payments in March and May, with a further four points suspended. An independent disciplinary commission required funds equal to 125 per cent of the club's forecast monthly wage bill to be paid into a nominated account by Wednesday, but that has not been done. The additional sanction has consequently been enforced.

A statement from Wigan read: "We are extremely disappointed with this latest decision. The football club has been very transparent with the EFL who have had clear visibility of the eight-figure sum to finance the remainder of this season and the whole of next season.

"The club will now consider all options open, including legal action in response to this, and will make no further comment at this time."

Pep tells La Liga to follow Premier League on racism

Paul Hirst

Pep Guardiola thinks that racism will continue to blight La Liga and has told the Spanish authorities that they should follow the example of the Premier League if they are to tackle the problem.

Valencia fans heckled Vinícius Jr and shouted *"mono"* (monkey) at him during Real Madrid's La Liga match at the Mestalla Stadium last Sunday.

Javier Tebas, the La Liga president, caused outrage by telling Vinícius: "It is necessary to educate yourself properly," and claimed that the 22-year-old Brazilian had failed to turn up to two meetings to discuss the matter.

Tebas has since apologised. Guardiola, who has clashed with Tebas in the past, was asked whether La Liga could learn from the Premier League and the strong punishments they hand out for racism. "They should," Guardiola said. "Here they are so strict. They know what they have to do.

"Of course racism is a problem everywhere, not just in one specific place. We need to accept diversity as a strength, like a human being — and still right now, we are far away from that. Hopefully it can be one step to getting better in Spain but I'm not optimistic. I know a little bit about the country and I'm not really optimistic."

In March a Chelsea supporter was banned from attending matches for three years for making a racist gesture towards Son Heung-min last August. Later that month, another fan was given a three-year ban for racially abusing Brentford's Ivan Toney online.

Spanish police have arrested three people for "racist behaviour" during the Valencia game. One of the stands from which Vinícius was abused will be closed for the next five matches and Valencia have also been fined a sum of about £39,000.

Can anyone halt the Chelsea juggernaut?

Women's Super League
Molly Hudson

Only the biggest shock in WSL history will prevent Chelsea from securing their fourth successive title today. They face Reading, who will be relegated unless they better Leicester City's result against Brighton & Hove Albion.

Manchester United can still win the title if they beat Liverpool, but only in the unlikely event that Chelsea slip up. Emma Hayes's side have won eight leading trophies since 2019, which would rise to nine to complete a double with the FA Cup this season.

It is an unparalleled level of dominance in the modern era, but how can their competitors close the gap?

MANCHESTER UNITED

Marc Skinner's side have exceeded expectations to improve on their three successive fourth-place finishes. They are likely to finish second in the table, and their decision to keep Alessia Russo, rather than sell the striker to Arsenal at a time when the north London club were title rivals, showed a realisation at board level that no amount of financial compensation would rival on-field success.

While Russo did not join Arsenal in January, it had been widely expected that she would leave upon the expiry of her contract this summer. It is now understood she is more likely to remain at United, given she is unable to speak to clubs in England until the end of her present deal.

Ona Batlle, the Spain full back, has arguably been United's player of the season, but she is increasingly likely to join Barcelona at the end of the season. If United are to continue closing the gap to the European elite, they must create a project that encourages players to remain at the club.

Skinner has repeatedly said that this campaign is the start of their project, not the end, and next season will provide a significant test as they balance domestic and European football for the first time.

ARSENAL

At the start of the season, Arsenal believed they had a squad to win the title but their hopes were soon dashed by a remarkable injury crisis. Four players — Beth Mead, Vivianne Miedema, Leah Williamson and Laura Wienroither — have ruptured an anterior cruciate ligament over the course of only six months.

Kim Little, the Arsenal captain, has also been sidelined since March with a hamstring injury. Miedema recently said in an interview in the Netherlands: "We at Arsenal have to stay fit with two physiotherapists for a complete squad of more than 20 players. How can that go well?"

CHARLOTTE TATTERSALL/MUFC/GETTY IMAGES



Russo has decided to remain at United in a statement of intent by her employers

That is not an isolated issue for Arsenal — the relative infancy of the women's game means the numbers of backroom staff are significantly smaller than for their male counterparts.

Despite their injuries, Arsenal beat Chelsea in the Continental Cup final, their first trophy under Jonas Eidevall, the head coach. They are likely to finish third in the WSL after failing to secure the necessary squad reinforcements to bolster their forward line in January.

A protracted and public failure to sign their No1 target, Russo, which included having a world-record bid rejected, highlights a transfer approach that has frustrated Eidevall, who described the last two transfer windows as "not good enough".

Chelsea routinely conduct their business early in the window, avoiding such transfer scrambles, and that is an area in which Arsenal must improve. They will again be searching for a striker, as well as a centre back to replace the departing Rafaelle.

How they stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Chelsea	21	18	1	2	63	15	48	**55**
Man Utd	21	17	2	2	55	12	43	**53**
Arsenal	21	15	2	4	49	14	35	**47**
Man City	21	14	2	5	47	23	24	**44**
Aston Villa	21	10	4	7	45	37	8	**34**
Everton	21	9	3	9	27	33	-6	**30**
Liverpool	21	6	5	10	24	38	-14	**23**
West Ham	21	6	2	13	21	42	-21	**20**
Tottenham	21	5	2	14	29	45	-16	**17**
Brighton	21	4	4	13	26	62	-36	**16**
Leicester	21	4	1	16	14	48	-34	**13**
Reading	21	3	2	16	23	54	-31	**11**

Today's fixtures (3pm): Arsenal v Aston Villa; Brighton v Leicester; Liverpool v Manchester Utd; Manchester City v Everton; Reading v Chelsea; West Ham v Tottenham.

MANCHESTER CITY

For much of the WSL era, the blockbuster rivalry was the one between Chelsea and Manchester City. While Chelsea have built on their success, City have gone backwards. Since winning the title in 2016, they were runners-up for five years in a row, before a third-place finish last season.

This campaign has been difficult throughout, featuring an early exit in Champions League pre-qualifying at the hands of Real Madrid, the departures of a host of key stars, including Keira Walsh and Georgia Stanway, and a shock defeat by Liverpool at the start of the month that all but ended their European hopes for next season.

Hayes highlights that whichever team do not qualify for the Champions League hold an advantage in the league, given the fewer fixtures, and City must use this to rebuild.



'It's not the fans stopping players coming out – it's dressing rooms'

Thomas Hitzlsperger tells **Henry Winter** that it's the lack of acceptance from team-mates that gay stars fear





PAUL GILHAM/GETTY IMAGES
Hitzlsperger celebrates a goal with his Aston Villa team-mates away to Portsmouth in 2005. Below, collecting his Global Ambassador Award in London this week

It is, of course, ridiculous that we are still having this debate about homosexuality in the 21st century but here we are, me and Thomas Hitzlsperger, in a beautiful old converted bank in the City of London discussing why more professional footballers such as him haven't come out. It's partly societal, the former Aston Villa, West Ham United and Everton midfield player argues cogently — and also resistance in the dressing room, he adds powerfully.

Hitzlsperger is in London to collect the Global Ambassador Award presented "to outstanding individuals who demonstrate the power of football to change the world for good" at the Football Business Awards. Illustrious previous recipients include Sir Bobby Charlton, Sir Trevor Brooking, Jimmy Armfield, Tony Adams and Gary Neville. "It's insane when I look at these legends and it's almost, 'Why me?'" Hitzlsperger says over coffee early yesterday. Why him? Well, his citation reads that the 41-year-old "has been at the forefront of the fight to promote and encourage diversity in professional sport for almost ten years now".

Since coming out in 2014, Hitzlsperger has worked on diversity issues for the German FA, for whom he won 52 Germany caps and played in the 2006 World Cup and Euro 2008. He worked as head of sport and chief executive at Stuttgart before returning to his popular TV punditry duties.

There is so much to talk about with the eloquent Hitzlsperger, taking in his days as "Der Hammer" with his ferocious left-footed shooting in England. He reflects on the Holte End, David Moyes and John Stones, the pain of relegation, the passion and respect of English football fans and the madness of standing on the terraces in the "Second City derby" as Peter Enckelman conceded a real howler from a throw-in and was confronted by a fan in 2002.

But first the question of how few football players have come out — and only a few while still playing such as Jake Daniels, of Blackpool, Jakub Jankto of Sparta Prague and the Czech Republic and Josh Cavallo of Adelaide United. Robbie Rogers, briefly of Leeds United, came out after returning to the US in 2013.



"It's not the media, it's not the fans, it's the dressing-room," Hitzlsperger says. He knows of clubs where players talked about what would happen if one of them came out as gay. "You can unsettle a dressing-room," he says. "If you come out as gay you're the centre of attention. All the media would go to the training ground and want to interview the player and his team-mates." For a week. "Probably. But it can change something. Let's say if you're not a key player, but suddenly you are the most prominent player in that squad. It can change the atmosphere, can't it?

"It's not an issue in the women's game, which is great. But in the men's game it is. It is one thing to say, 'I accept you are gay or lesbian' and another thing to say, 'You're gay but I have to get changed next to you every day, we have to shower with each other'. It's different. I've heard players say they would be very uncomfortable. What if a player just waits until you finish showering and then he comes in, just avoids you? You don't want that, do you?"

He was encouraged after speaking to Daniels. "Hopefully he's going to make it to the top level and play Premier League or Championship football on a regular basis," Hitzlsperger adds. But the views of some that Daniels coming out would lead to others have not been borne out. Some current players have spoken to the Professional Footballers' Association and there was briefly a plan in the past for a group to come out together, but again, nothing. "It could possibly become a circus."

Hitzlsperger emphasises that societal pressures remain a barrier. "Nowadays, do you think anybody in the media would say anything [negative] about a footballer coming out? No. Nowadays you get so much applause if you are a public figure who comes out as gay, everybody says 'brilliant'. And still there is a lot of fear.

"We feel uncomfortable saying who we are, probably not here in London, a big city, but [in] rural Bavaria it can be. Where I come from is a very conservative, rural area and I feared the worst, but that wasn't the case. Once I told my parents it's almost overwhelming for them but for so many years they've been proud of my achievements in football, so they didn't turn around and say, 'We abandon you now.'" His parents were good. "But I know these stories from other people: they've been abandoned by their family, but in my case that wasn't true.

"I've got the backing from my closest friends and family and it's my duty to speak up because maybe somebody will listen to my story and be encouraged. People come up to me and say, 'It's great what you did'. I do feel [like] a role model and that's the greatest privilege because once your career is over you want to find something."

I ask him whether he's more proud about coming out, and the impact that has had on so many people, or — clunky football fan's question — pride in what he achieved with Germany. "Probably [the former]," he says. "I'm so happy I had this career and it was fantastic, I enjoyed it, but then it's over. I can affect people's lives and not just for 90 minutes, but change their lives by being a role model and that's fantastic."

> "Qatar was a step back… they all caved in over the armband

He was still disappointed that European players and national associations did not take more of a stand in Qatar, especially over the OneLove armband. "Qatar was a step back, unfortunately," he says. "There is frustration and anger. Qatar are paying for the party so they dictate the rules. If they said, 'Look, Gianni Infantino [the Fifa president], you make sure these players don't wear the armband', he makes sure that it doesn't happen.

"I remember the press conference of Infantino. It was an absolute disgrace. He tried to divide Europe and the rest of the world. He wants to unite people through football but he does exactly the opposite, because he's fed up with some of the European countries.

"Infantino said, 'You have to decide if you want to send a message but it comes with a consequence or you shut up. If you're going to continue doing it, we are going to punish you.' They all caved in. Harry Kane [England's captain] was the first player to have to make that decision [and not wear the armband for fear of sanctions] and the team and the FA caved in. Infantino tested them and they caved in. I know it's really difficult, you're at a World Cup and within hours Harry Kane is not going to phone Manuel Neuer and some other captains and say, 'What are we going to do?' It is tough.

"I work for the German FA as an ambassador. I tried to encourage the players, 'You have the platform, OK? The world looks at you at the World Cup and if you send out that message we are pro-diversity it's so powerful.' It has to come from the player's heart."

Germany made a point, stronger than England's, but Hitzlsperger had hoped for a stronger stand. "That's why I go back to Colin Kaepernick [the black NFL quarterback who took the knee in protest at police brutality in 2016]. He said, 'OK, I really care about what I'm doing and if it has consequences for me as a football player, I will take it.'" Kaepernick has rarely played since.

And so to the sport. On the eve of the final weekend of the Premier League season, Hitzlsperger was brimming with recollections of his time in English football, starting when he arrived as a teenager at Villa in 2000. "Playing in front of the Holte End was special in so many ways. Just to feel that people take me into their hearts and give a nickname 'Der Hammer' is so special."

After leaving Villa and winning the Bundesliga with Stuttgart, he went on to Lazio and then West Ham in 2010.

Hitzlsperger moved to Everton in 2012 where he saw the blossoming talent of John Stones. "I wish I could say I made him a better player," he says. "Pep [Guardiola] made him the player he is now. But always when I watch Man City, I say, 'I played with John Stones.'" So Hitzlsperger will watch the games this weekend, and the finals, knowing how much he has contributed to English football and to society.

Could club from a bygone era survive in Premier League?

Gary Jacob

Dry humour comes with the territory at Luton Town and this week the jokes have all been about the prospect of Erling Haaland walking through a battered entrance at their Kenilworth Road home where away supporters enter through a gate in between a row of terraced houses.

Amid the growing number of state-of-the-art stadiums that now populate the Premier League, it is an image from a bygone era, and a decade ago, when Luton struggled to return to the Football League, it would have been absurd to think they could be on the brink of becoming part of a competition in which Manchester City pay Haaland £20 million a year. Now they are one game away.

Luton's annual wage bill is about £6.7 million, among the lowest in the Sky Bet Championship, and only slightly more than the agent fees paid by certain division rivals in the past 12 months. They have no stars and last summer paid a club-record fee to sign Carlton Morris from Barnsley. The fee? £1.3 million, which looks like money well spent since Morris has gone on to score 20 league goals this season.

With a capacity of 10,356, Kenilworth Road would be the smallest ground in the top flight, with only Bournemouth's Vitality Stadium, at roughly a thousand more, anywhere near so small. It last staged top-flight football in 1992 and remains virtually unchanged since those days — down to the peculiar row of small 1980s executive boxes running down one side of the pitch and a stand that will need to be rebuilt in 14 weeks if they go up.

Promotion, should it come, will be worth at least £180 million and while Gary Sweet, the club's chief executive, says "the old girl is beautiful" when referring to Luton's home since 1905 there is no doubt that they could fill a bigger stadium and the club are finalising a detailed planning application for a new ground on a 20-acre site next to Luton railway station.

Today they will take 35,000 fans to Wembley, where they face a Coventry City side whose route to the final has also been an improbable one.

There are many ways of telling one of the greatest renaissance stories of modern football. This is a club that dropped out of the top tier just as the Premier League came into being, had three administrations within a decade, suffered a 30-point penalty that forced a third straight relegation and spent five years in the non-League wilderness from 2009.

But for many Luton fans the turning point was when frustration and disconnection turned into toxicity on the terraces early in their fifth season in the National League. With the team losing 1-0 to Lincoln City, the captain Ronnie Henry went to collect the ball for a throw-in when a home supporter hurled it back with some choice words.

"He aggressively shouted, 'Sort it out!' and that I had been taking it for too long — and I had a go back saying, 'If you're not going to be behind us, don't come,'" Henry recalled.

Luton won 3-2 and John Still, the manager at the time, turned the incident into a moment that unified the team and fanbase, which has been crucial for their success.

Mark Baldwin, the fan and a former soldier, was invited to watch training and speak to the players, offering a bottle of whisky to Henry and Still as an apology, and left with a better understanding of how they worked.

Baldwin joined the team huddle after the next home match, a 4-3 win over Halifax Town, spawning a tradition. "It became a small part of changing the club's fortune. The support from then was unbelievable," Henry said.

There had been previous turning points and many Luton fans still revere the contributions made by Mick Harford, who was a key player in the side that beat Arsenal in the League Cup final in 1988, but went on to become a fiery and determined Luton manager, and of Nick Owen, the TV presenter and lifelong fan who was chairman for a long spell.

But for all their efforts, it was still pretty bleak off the pitch in 2014 when Luton's players changed in two portable buildings and had one rack of gym equipment for the squad at their training ground at Ely Way, a public field. On one occasion the players had to stop practice when a dog ran on the pitch and would not get off. Another time, a ball hit a dog, provoking anger from the owner.

Owen, in line with his BBC contract, was not allowed to be involved in hiring and firing, but was there when the club appointed Still in 2013 because of his non-League experience. A year later that decision paid off and Luton finished 19 points clear at the top.

Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu remains the only survivor from that side and could make history as the only player to go from the National League to the Premier League with the same club. The midfielder, 29, grew up in Hendon, northwest London, and watched Wembley being rebuilt from his garden. He has never been to the stadium. "Getting the record would be motivation but it has been a crazy journey," Mpanzu said.

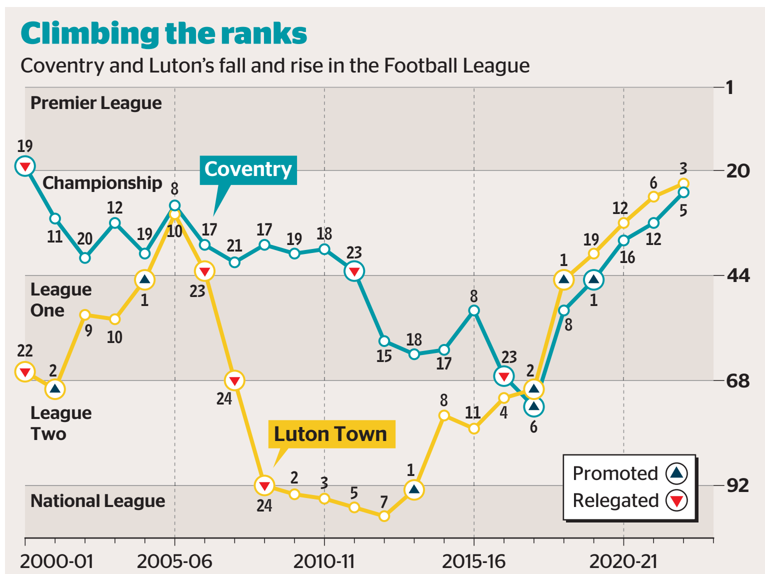
Mpanzu joined on loan before a £50,000 permanent transfer from West Ham United, making his debut at Staines Town in the FA Trophy in front of a crowd of 621. "I was like, 'Oh man, this is different to Upton Park,'" he said. "Did I want to come here? Absolutely not. Sometimes you have to take the risk and it was worth taking. This place was bonkers back then."

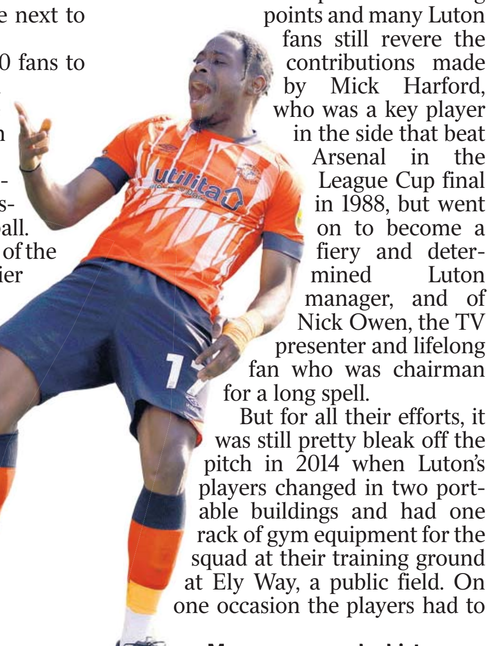
After Still departed, Nathan Jones won promotion to League One before he left for Stoke City in January 2019. Harford stepped back in and won the title, and he has since become the club's head of recruitment.

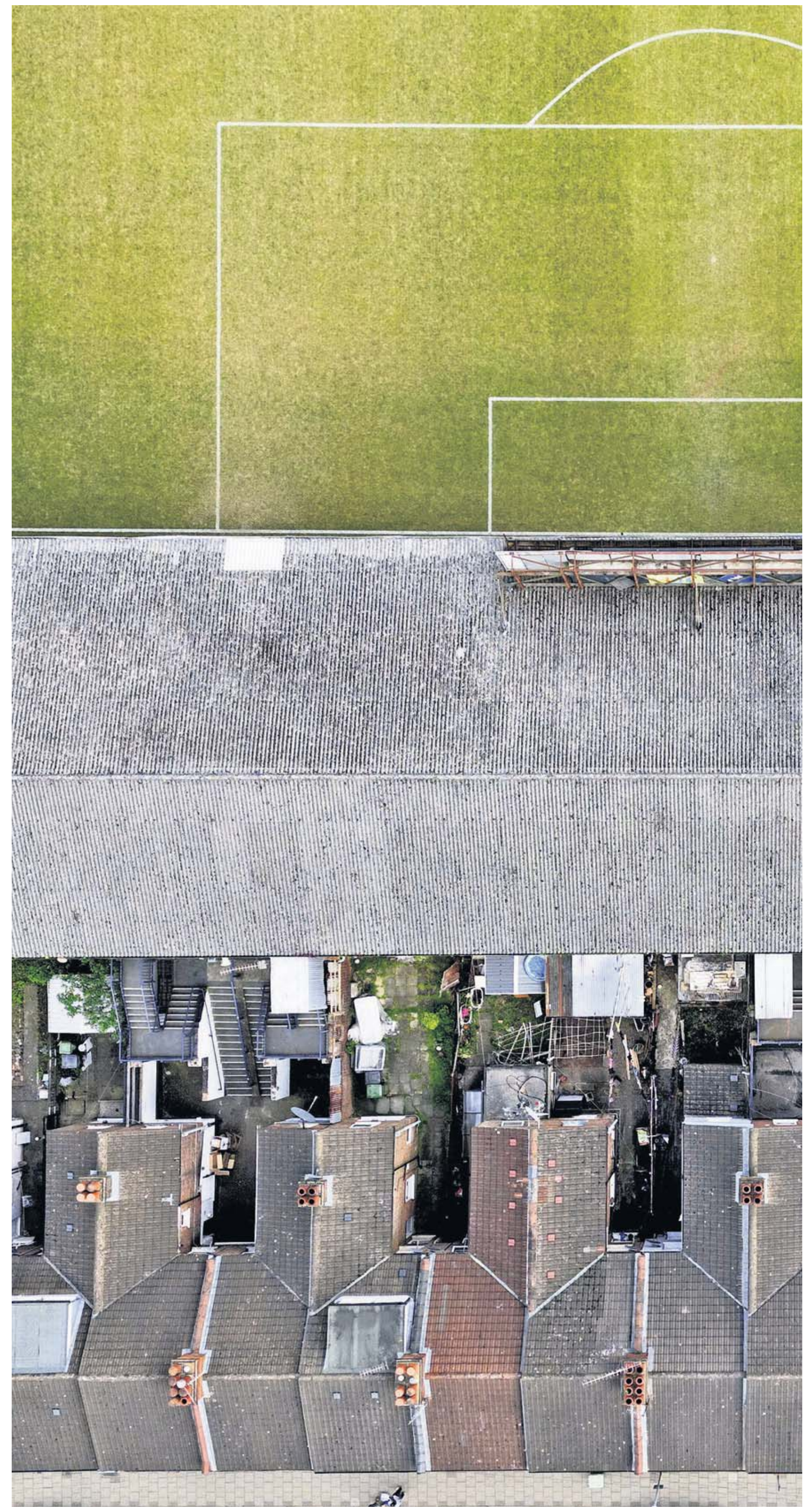
Jones returned after 18 months and enjoyed more success but was again tempted elsewhere, this time by Premier League Southampton, although his tenure there was brief and brutal — lasting three months and 14 matches.

Rob Edwards replaced Jones in November, two months after he was sacked by Watford after 11 games, and Luton's rise has continued. He regards today as a potentially huge but at the same time insists that the renaissance does not depend on it.

"Everyone is desperate to win," he said. "If we don't, there will be a period of mourning and devastation — but realism. People will ultimately think, 'We're on the way back.'"




Mpanzu can make history



From nightmare to

Gregor Robertson

There have been moments, during the convulsive era Coventry City have been living through when Mark Robins's mind drifted back to his first week in the dugout, as caretaker manager of Rotherham United, in March 2007.

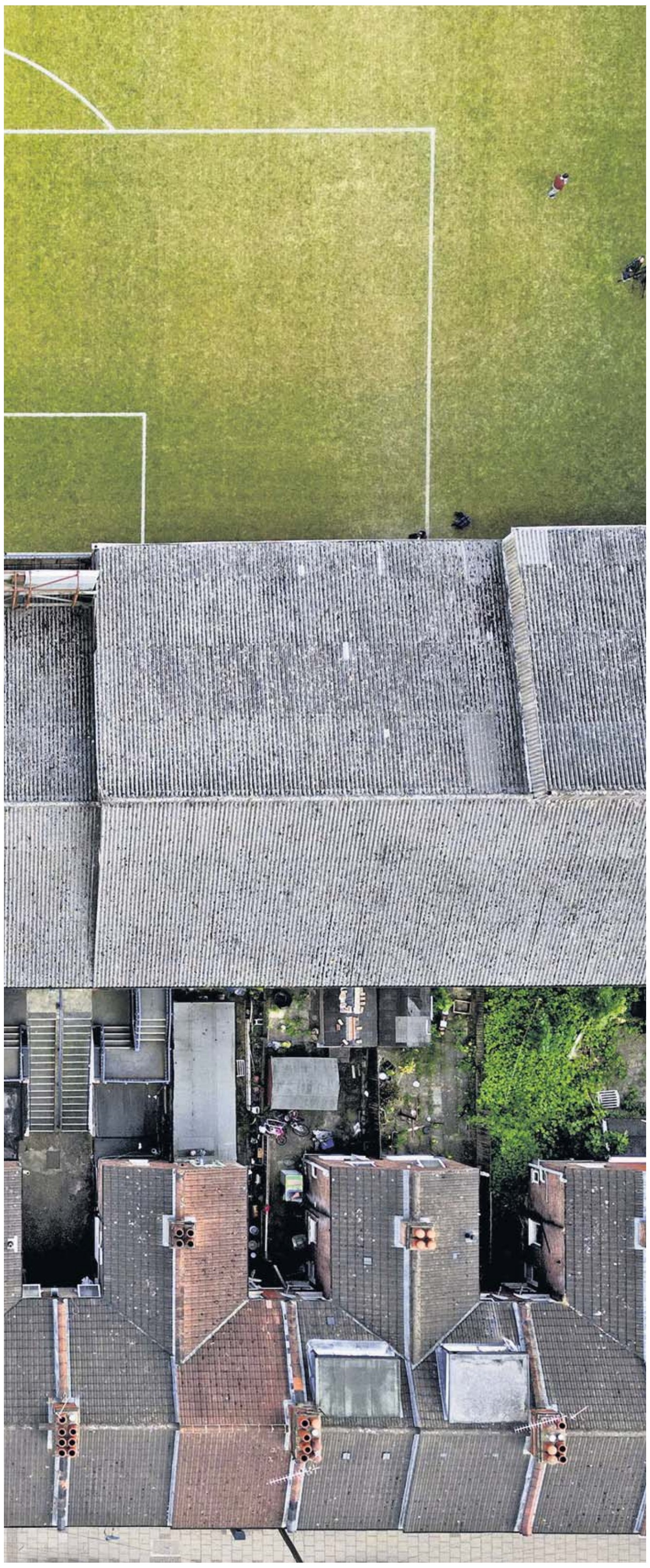
Management had never been in Robins's plans. Yet here he was, 37 and in the wake of Alan Knill's dismissal, leading a side saddled with a ten-point deduction, 13 points from safety in League One. "I remember the first game I had, against Bradford City, we won 4-1," Robins, now 53, says. "Port Vale were our next opponents. I thought we were in a decent place. Rubbish. Lost 5-1.

"I went home, went to bed, and pulled the covers over my head. It was the lowest I've ever felt in football. And then, after about 15 minutes of reflecting, I got up and I set about doing what I wanted to do. That was the point where I thought, 'I can do this.' You just don't know, until you're in the seat, whether you can. And sometimes — very infrequently now — I go back to that time. You think, 'Right, how do I get through this?' And you do, somehow. There's been so much adversity in my career. But you find a way through."

Administration, a further 17-point sanction and exile at Sheffield's Don Valley Stadium proved quite the baptism of fire during two years in South Yorkshire, but it "stood me in good stead", Robins says. He was also hired to fight fires at relegation-threatened Barnsley, Huddersfield Town and Scunthorpe United, none of whom would reflect upon his time with a great deal of fondness.

So when you consider the backdrop of much of Robins's six years at Coventry — bitter fan protests, two seasons exiled in Birmingham, the spectre of homelessness and a pitch deemed so unsafe that Coventry had to play six of their first seven games away from home this season — what he has had to contend with is almost unprecedented.

Yet five years on from steering Coventry out of the fourth tier via the play-offs, he will lead out the Midlands club

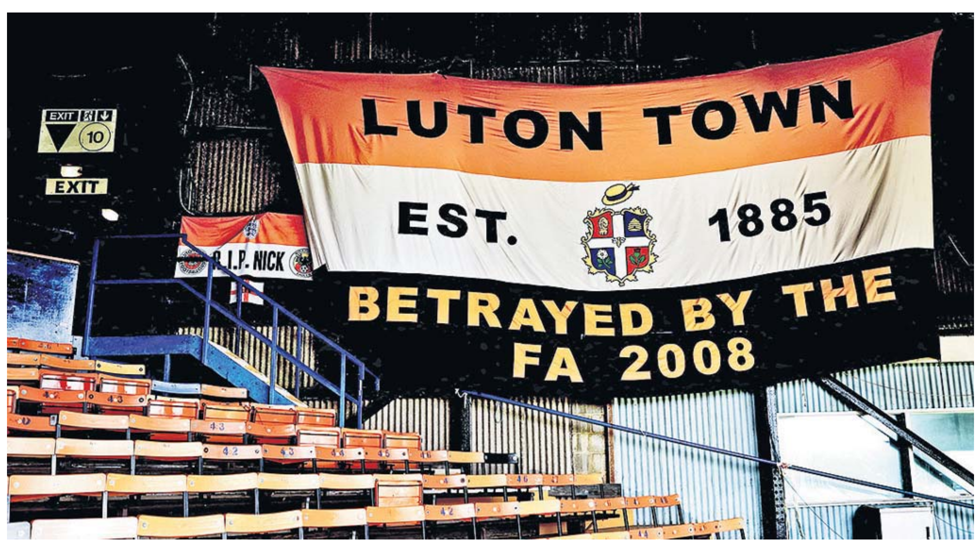




CARL RECINE/REUTERS

Kenilworth Road from above, left, shows a ground past its sell-by date flanked by terraced houses, in between which remain the turnstiles to the away end, right. Above, the laundry room continues to remain in use while, below, fans still harbour old enmities from the days when the existence of their club was in regular peril





dreamland: how Robins kept the faith

when they face Luton Town at Wembley for a place in the Premier League. As Robins says: "We're one game away from achieving a dream."

Becoming the first manager to lead a club from the fourth tier to the top flight in the Premier League era would be a miraculous feat for a man best known as the player whose goals helped Manchester United to lift the 1990 FA Cup — and, as the story goes, saved Alex Ferguson's job.

When Robins returned to Coventry in March 2017, after a brief spell in charge five years earlier, he inherited a club riven with rancour and mistrust of the owners, the London-based hedge fund Sisu, and heading for the bottom division for the first time since 1959.

Victory at Wembley in the 2017 EFL Trophy final, before 45,000 of their fans, was a reminder of the potential and possibility; a catalyst, too, for the two promotions in three years that followed. "He cleared the decks that summer," says Michael Doyle, Robins's first signing after relegation was confirmed and who was made captain. "He

Coventry City v Luton Town
Wembley Stadium
Today, 4.45pm
TV: Sky Sports. Radio: talkSPORT

signed good senior professionals, good young players, recognised that there was a good bunch in the academy ready to come through. He put a good blend together. And that was the start of it."

Doyle points to Robins's eye for detail, his management — in the truest sense of the word — across every aspect of the club during the rebuild. "He'd always be ringing me up, asking what the mood was like [in the dressing room]. 'Is he OK? We need to keep an eye on this . . .'" he says. "Him and his staff were on top of everything, from medical to recruitment; anything you could think of, he was in control and trying to make better.

"Little things, like getting us all suits for Wembley [in 2018], tracksuit tops for walking out in. He made it feel like a special occasion."

Those who have worked with Robins all speak of an unassuming figure, but point to a sharp wit and a ruthless edge. Paul Hurst, who played with and for him at Rotherham, recalls his surprise at the former Manchester United, Norwich City and Leicester City striker turning up at the club driving a modest Mini with a Union Jack on the roof.

"With the career he'd had, coming to Rotherham would have been a bit of an eye-opener for him," Hurst, now the manager of Grimsby Town, says. "But there was nothing big-time about him. He was always confident in himself, but he didn't express that externally."

Robins always seeks to share praise with his backroom staff, the former Chelsea academy coach Adi Viveash in particular, Dave Boddy, the club's chief executive, and the fans. "The biggest achievement has been the reconnection with the supporters and the players," Robins says. "That's been phenomenal, and it's absolutely fundamental. Yeah, I'm proud of that."

Inside the CBS Stadium a huge flag immortalises the great Jimmy Hill, author of *The Sky Blue Revolution* in the Sixties. Another depicts George Curtis, a defender who made more than 500 appearances and was joint-manager when Coventry lifted their only significant honour, the 1987 FA Cup. Alongside them, however, lies an image of Robins. He is already in their company. "Our King", the display reads — and promotion to the top flight, against all odds, would confirm his coronation.

Doyle, who made more than 300 appearances in his first spell with the club, between 2003 and 2011, says the city is bristling with pride again. "They've had some journey," he says. "I've seen it all over the last 20-odd years. I never left the area. My kids are growing up here.

"This is the massive thing that people probably don't realise: Coventry feels back to being that one-club city. Everybody's proud. The supporters are back, the ground's packed out. What it's doing for the community is amazing. And if he gets us to that Premier League, it will be huge for the whole city."

I'm grateful Wednesday fans see me, says Moore

League One play-off final
John Westerby

No football manager could be blamed for shutting themselves away behind secured gates once match day is done, such are the extremes of emotion vented in their direction, but Darren Moore feels differently. The Sheffield Wednesday manager, whose side face Barnsley on Monday in the Sky Bet League One play-off final, feels that relocating to live in the city where he works and opening himself up to supporters has been one of his smartest moves.

There have certainly been the full range of emotions for Wednesday fans over the past fortnight, with stinging criticism of Moore after the 4-0 semi-final defeat away to Peterborough United, including racial abuse of both the manager and Dejphon Chansiri, the chairman, which became the subject of a police involvement. Then there was the astonishing comeback in the home leg, culminating in victory on penalties and euphoric celebrations.

Moore does not seek to shelter from public reaction even though, as a 6ft 2in former central defender, he tends to be recognised wherever he goes. "When I first came here, about three or four months into the job, I moved to Sheffield," he said. "I just felt I needed to be more connected to the football club. I can genuinely say that I've really

Barnsley v Sheffield Wed
Wembley Stadium
Monday, 3pm
TV: Sky Sports. Radio: talkSPORT

enjoyed living here in the city and it's one of the best things I've done. I've been around the shops, I've been to the different places where you're going to meet supporters, and when I walk around Sheffield, I can't hide, the size that I am. It's not like I can put a hat on and people don't see me. They do see me and I'm grateful for that."

After that heady night at Hillsborough, Moore delivered a calming speech in the changing room shortly after the game, urging his players to remember they had an important game to follow, only for his players to mob their manager with thanks for how he had helped them turn the fixture around. The next morning, he was quick to turn his focus to the final against their south Yorkshire rivals.

"I was up at 8.45am, took myself for a walk around the park, and by the time it was lunchtime, I was on towards the final," he said. Does he go for walks in the park even after defeats? "Yeah, because you've got to feel it, it's a two-way thing and football gives you another chance."

Wednesday's status as a sleeping giant should be underlined by the presence of about 44,000 of their supporters at Wembley on Monday. The promotion decider is the biggest game of Moore's managerial career, which has taken him from West Bromwich Albion to Doncaster Rovers before he moved to Wednesday in March 2021.

If promotion is secured, he may celebrate in the manner he did after the win against Peterborough — with a few sweets. "The jelly snakes, they're not great, but they are moreish," he said.

BILL EDGAR'S GUIDE TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE WEEKEND



3 Penalties among past five in Liverpool's games that missed target (Liverpool 2; Villa 1)

12 Leeds games in row where they scored and conceded

14 Bournemouth league defeats by at least two goals this term

Arsenal v Wolverhampton Wanderers
Tomorrow, 4.30pm. TV: Highlights, BBC1, 10.30pm

Arsenal (probable; 4-3-3)
A Ramsdale — T Partey, B White, Gabriel, J Kiwior — M Odegaard, Jorginho, G Xhaka — B Saka, G Jesus, L Trossard. **Injured** G Martinelli, O Zinchenko, W Saliba, T Tomiyasu, M Elneny. **Doubt** B Saka, L Trossard, R Nelson.

Wolves (probable; 4-2-3-1)
D Bentley — N Semedo, N Collins, C Dawson, Toti — J Gomes, R Neves — A Traoré, P Sarabia, D Podence — Hwang Hee-chan
Injured S Kalajdzic, Chiquinho.

Referee A Marriner (matches officiated 12) ■ 2 ■ 46

● Manchester City and Arsenal will finish as the top two in the league for the first time - they are the 76th different top-two pairing in the top division

Most common top twos in table (either way round)

Arsenal, Man Utd	6
Chelsea, Man Utd	5
Liverpool, Man City	5
Liverpool, Man Utd	5
Man City, Man Utd	5

Aston Villa v Brighton & Hove Albion
Tomorrow, 4.30pm. TV: Live, Sky Sports Football

Aston Villa (4-4-2)
E Martínez — M Cash, E Konsa, T Mings, L Digne — J McGinn, B Kamara, D Luiz, J Ramsey — L Bailey, O Watkins.
Injured Á Moreno, P Coutinho.
Doubt D Carlos.

Brighton (4-2-3-1)
J Steele — P Gross, J-P van Hecke, L Colwill, P Estupiñán — M Caicedo, B Gilmour — J Enciso, A Mac Allister, K Mitoma — E Ferguson.
Injured S March, J Sarmiento, T Lamptey, J Moder, A Lallana.
Doubt L Dunk, A Webster.

Referee D Coote (20) ■ 3 ■ 73

● Brighton have by far the best goalscoring record away from home this season among top-flight clubs

Top-flight teams with most goals per away games this season, all comps:

Brighton	2
Arsenal	1.72
Man City	1.69
Newcastle	1.67
Liverpool	1.60

Chelsea v Newcastle United
Tomorrow, 4.30pm. TV: Highlights, BBC1, 10.30pm

Chelsea (4-3-3)
K Arrizabalaga — T Chalobah, W Fofana, T Silva, L Hall — C Gallagher, E Fernández, C Chukwuemeka — N Madueke, K Havertz, J Félix.
Injured R James, B Chilwell, M Cucurella, B Badiashile, N Kanté, A Broja.
Doubt M Mount, M Kovacic.

Newcastle (4-3-3)
M Dubravka — K Trippier, F Schär, S Botman, D Burn — S Longstaff, B Guimarães, E Anderson — M Almirón, C Wilson, A Isak. **Injured** N Pope, J Willock, Joelinton, E Krafth, J Lascelles, J Manquillo, M Ritchie.

Referee J Gillett (16) ■ 1 ■ 48

● Chelsea's 26-year run in the top ten has ended

Longest runs of top-ten finishes in top flight

Liverpool	61	(1962-63 to 2022-23)
Man Utd	33	(1990-91 to 2022-23)
Arsenal	28	(1995-96 to 2022-23)
Chelsea	26	(1996-97 to 2021-22)
Arsenal	18	(1976-77 to 1993-94)
Man City	16	(2007-08 to 2022-23)
Leeds	15	(1964-65 to 1978-79)
Man Utd	15	(1946-47 to 1960-61)

Crystal Palace v Nottingham Forest
Tomorrow, 4.30pm. TV: Highlights, BBC1, 10.30pm

Crystal Palace (4-3-3)
S Johnstone — J Ward, J Andersen, M Guéhi, T Mitchell — E Eze, C Doucouré, W Hughes — M Olise, O Édouard, J Ayew. **Injured** W Zaha, J Schlupp, J Tomkins, N Ferguson.

Nottingham Forest (3-4-2-1)
W Hennessey — J Worrall, W Boly, M Niakhaté — S Aurier, R Yates, O Mangala, R Lodi — B Johnson, M Gibbs-White — T Awoniyi.
Injured K Navas, D Henderson, N Williams, S McKenna, O Richards, G Biancone, J Colback, C Wood. **Doubt** Felipe, Danilo, G Scarpa, J Lingard.

Referee T Bramall (7) ■ 0 ■ 23

● Crystal Palace have fielded three prolific dribblers this season

Most dribbles past opponent in top flight this season

Ebere Eze, Crystal Palace	71
Bukayo Saka, Arsenal	69
Jordan Ayew, Crystal Palace	65
Solly March, Brighton	63
Gabriel Martinelli, Arsenal	63
Wilfried Zaha, Crystal Palace	59
Joelinton, Newcastle	59

Everton v Bournemouth
Tomorrow, 4.30pm. TV: Live, Sky Sports Main Event. Radio: BBC 5 Live

Everton (4-2-3-1)
J Pickford — M Holgate, Y Mina, J Tarkowski, V Mykolenko — A Onana, I Gueye — A Iwobi, A Doucouré, D McNeil — D Gray. **Injured** D Calvert-Lewin, N Patterson, B Godfrey, S Coleman, A Townsend.
Doubt V Mykolenko, T Davies.

Bournemouth (4-2-3-1)
Neto — A Smith, I Zabarnyi, M Senesi, L Kelly — L Cook, J Lerma — D Brooks, P Billing, R Christie — D Solanke. **Injured** A Semenyo, R Fredericks, J Stanislas.
Doubt J Rothwell, M Tavernier.

Referee S Attwell (24) ■ 4 ■ 78

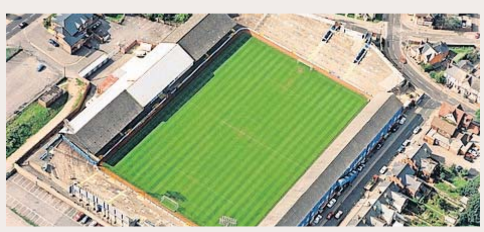
● Everton, who must win to be sure of staying up, will hope to capitalise on Bournemouth's weakness at corners

Most goals conceded at corners in Premier League this season

Bournemouth	16
Southampton	10
Chelsea	10
Six teams on	9

GROUNDS FROM THE PAST Elm Park

Reading played at Elm Park from when it was built in 1896 until their move to the Madejski Stadium in 1998. Their first match, against A Royston Bourke's XI, was ended early by a thunderstorm and brought an FA fine for playing against unregistered opponents. A record attendance of 33,042 in 1927 watched Reading beat Brentford in the FA Cup fifth round. In 1983 it was proposed to merge Reading with Oxford United, which would have led to the closure of Elm Park, but the plan fell through. Reading



were relegated from the second tier in their final season at Elm Park, losing six of their last eight matches there. They went down 1-0 to Norwich City in the last game in May 1998.



Leeds United v Tottenham Hotspur
Tomorrow, 4.30pm. TV: Live, BT Sport 1. Radio: talkSPORT

Leeds (4-3-3)
J Robles — L Ayling, R Kristensen, M Wöber, J Firpo — W McKennie, R Koch, A Forshaw — J Harrison, Rodrigo, W Gnonto.
Injured T Adams, L Sinisterra, S Dallas.
Doubt Rodrigo, P Bamford.

Tottenham (4-4-2)
F Forster — E Royal, D Sánchez, C Lenglet, B Davies — A Danjuma, Y Bissouma, P-E Hojbjerg, Son Heung-min — D Kulusevski, H Kane.
Injured H Lloris, E Dier, C Romero, R Sessegnon, R Bentancur.

Referee A Taylor (29) ■ 7 ■ 115

● Harry Kane has netted in 25 top-flight games this term

Scored in most top-flight games in one season

Vic Watson, West Ham	1929-30	30
Pongo Waring, Aston Villa	1930-31: 30	30
Dixie Dean, Everton	1927-28: 29	29
Joe Smith, Bolton	1920-21: 26	26
Jimmy Dunne, Sheff Utd	1930-31: 26	26
Ron Davies, Southampton	1966-67: 26	26
Andy Cole, Newcastle	1993-94: 26	26
Harry Kane, Tottenham	2022-23: 25	25

Eight others on 25

Leicester City v West Ham United
Tomorrow, 4.30pm. TV: Live, Sky Sports PL. Radio: BBC 5 Live Sports Extra

Leicester (4-3-3)
D Iversen — T Castagne, W Faes, J Evans, L Thomas — N Mendy, Y Tielemans, B Soumaré — J Maddison, J Vardy, H Barnes.
Injured C Soyuncu, J Justin, D Ward.
Doubt W Ndidi.

West Ham (4-2-3-1)
L Fabianski — V Coufal, K Zouma, N Aguerd, A Cresswell — D Rice, T Soucek — J Bowen, L Paquetá, P Fornals — M Antonio.
Injured G Scamacca. **Doubt** Emerson.

Referee S Hooper (28) ■ 1 ■ 99

● The three clubs facing relegation this weekend are all led by a Midlander appointed in the past four months

League games overseen by relegation-threatened managers

Sean Dyche (Everton), born Kettering	17
Dean Smith (Leicester), born West Bromwich	7
Sam Allardyce (Leeds), born Dudley	3

Manchester United v Fulham
Tomorrow, 4.30pm. TV: Highlights, BBC1, 10.30pm

Man Utd (4-2-3-1)
D de Gea — A Wan-Bissaka, R Varane, V Lindelof, T Malacia — Casemiro, C Eriksen — J Sancho, B Fernandes, M Rashford — A Martial.
Injured Antony, L Martínez, M Sabitzer, D van de Beek. **Doubt** L Shaw.

Fulham (4-3-3)
B Leno — K Tete, T Adarabioyo, I Diop, A Robinson — H Reed, J Palhinha, T Cairney — H Wilson, A Mitrovic, Willian.
Injured A Pereira, T Ream, L Kurzawa.
Doubt D James.

Referee R Jones (25) ■ 1 ■ 104

● Fulham, who will finish in the top half in their first season after promotion, have struggled against the top teams

Fulham in league this season

■ games ■ points

	games	points
Versus top four	7	0
Versus bottom four	8	22

Southampton v Liverpool
Tomorrow, 4.30pm. TV: Highlights, BBC1, 10.30pm

Southampton (4-2-3-1)
A McCarthy — T Livramento, J Bednarek, Lyanco, K Walker-Peters — J Ward-Prowse, R Lavia — T Walcott, C Alcaraz, M Elyounoussi — J Aribo.
Injured A Bella-Kotchap, M Salisu, R Perraud, J Larios, C Adams.
Doubt P Onuachu.

Liverpool (4-3-3)
Alisson — T Alexander-Arnold, J Matip, V van Dijk, K Tsimikas — H Elliott, Fabinho, C Jones — M Salah, C Gakpo, D Jota.
Injured Thiago, N Keita, S Bajcetic.
Doubt I Konaté, A Robertson.

Referee D England (17) ■ 3 ■ 63

● Southampton fans have not known the joy of a winner in the last minute or in stoppage time since Charlie Austin's penalty gave them a 3-2 victory over West Ham in August 2017

90th-min or stoppage-time winners since Sept 2017, all comps

Liverpool	Southampton
13	0

HOW THEY STAND

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Man City (C)	37	28	5	4	94	32	62	**89**
2	Arsenal	37	25	6	6	83	43	40	**81**
3	Man Utd	37	22	6	9	56	42	14	**72**
4	Newcastle	37	19	13	5	67	32	35	**70**
5	Liverpool	37	19	9	9	71	43	28	**66**
6	Brighton	37	18	8	11	71	51	20	**62**
7	Aston Villa	37	17	7	13	49	45	4	**58**
8	Tottenham	37	17	6	14	66	62	4	**57**
9	Brentford	37	14	14	9	57	46	11	**56**
10	Fulham	37	15	7	15	54	51	3	**52**
11	Crystal Palace	37	11	11	15	39	48	-9	**44**
12	Chelsea	37	11	10	16	37	46	-9	**43**
13	Wolves	37	11	8	18	31	53	-22	**41**
14	West Ham	37	11	7	19	41	53	-12	**40**
15	Bournemouth	37	11	6	20	37	70	-33	**39**
16	Nottm Forest	37	9	10	18	37	67	-30	**37**
17	Everton	37	7	12	18	33	57	-24	**33**
18	Leicester	37	8	7	22	49	67	-18	**31**
19	Leeds	37	7	10	20	47	74	-27	**31**
20	Southamptn (R)	37	6	6	25	32	69	-37	**24**

TOP SCORERS

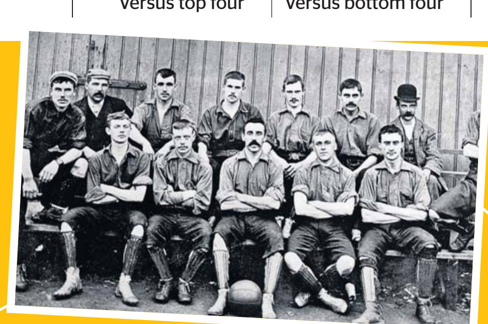
Haaland (Manchester City)	**36**
Kane (Tottenham)	**28**
Toney (Brentford)	**20**
Salah (Liverpool)	**19**

TOP ASSISTS

De Bruyne (Manchester City)	**16**
Salah (Liverpool)	**11**
Saka (Arsenal)	**11**
Mahrez (Manchester City)	**10**

A brief history of Port Vale

Port Vale give their formation date as 1876, although others say it was 1879. They entered the league in 1892 but fell out of it in 1907 amid financial troubles.



Having re-entered the league in 1919 when Leeds City were expelled for making illegal payments to players, they were themselves ejected for the same offence in 1968, but were quickly re-elected.

41

Vale have contested the most second-tier seasons for a club who have never played in the top flight — 41, a figure Plymouth Argyle will equal next season.



Only one player made more than Phil Sproson's 500 appearances for Port Vale — his uncle Roy Sproson, a centre back, played 836 times from 1950 to 1972. Wilf Kirkham scored a club record 163 goals from 1923 to 1933.

PREMIER LEAGUE MATCH IN FOCUS

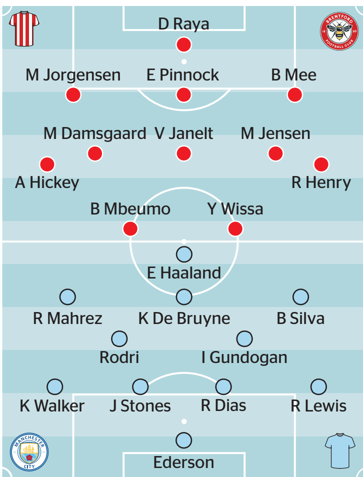
Brentford v Manchester City

Kick-off: Tomorrow, 4.30pm

TV: Highlights, BBC One, 10.30pm

Referee: J Brooks

Brentford (3-5-2) Possible line-ups



Manchester City (4-2-3-1)

Brenford
Injured: C Norgaard, P Jansson, K Lewis-Potter

Suspended: I Toney

Manchester City
Doubt: N Aké, M Akanji, R Dias, A Laporte, J Grealish, P Foden

Part-time Jensen

In these days of five substitutions being allowed, some players are becoming very accustomed to seeing their number appear on the fourth official's board. Brentford's Mathias Jensen has been hauled off 27 times, the most in any season, although Fulham's Andreas Pereira – routinely replaced by Tom Cairney – might have been well clear on this list had he not suffered injury last month

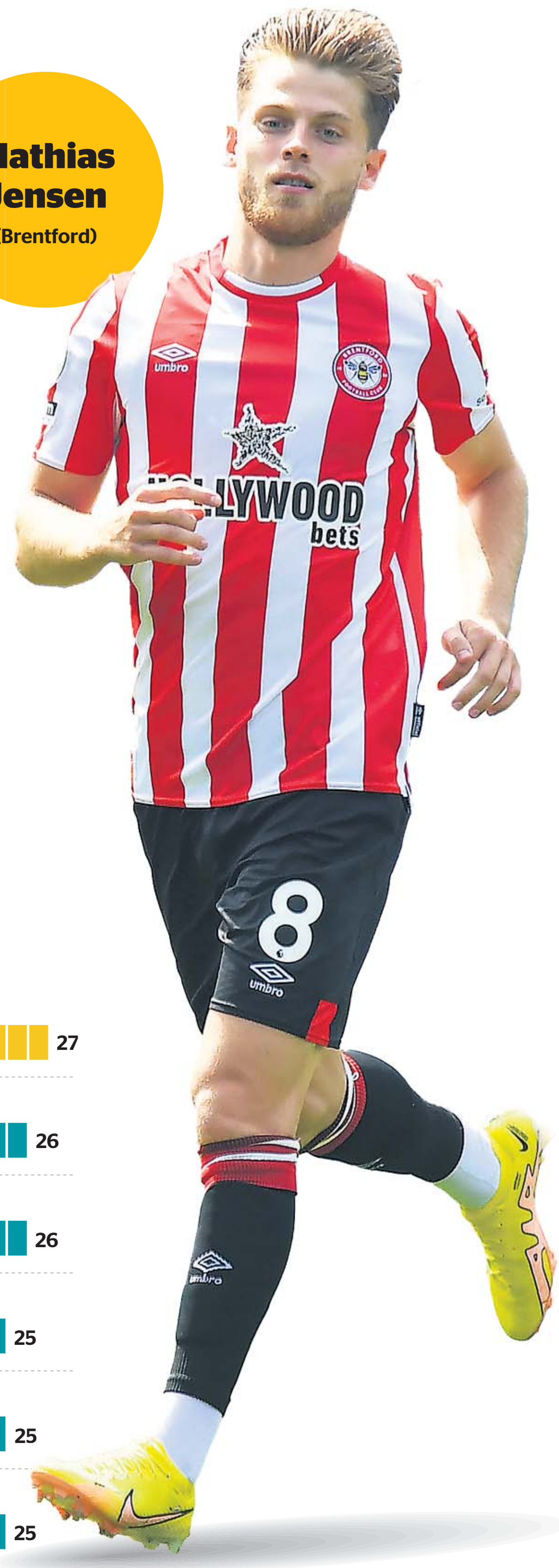
Most times substituted off in a Premier League season:

Mathias Jensen, Brentford, 2022-23	27
Steed Malbranque, Fulham, 2009-10	26
Andreas Pereira, Fulham, 2022-23	26
Shinji Okazaki, Leicester, 2015-16	25
Eden Hazard, Chelsea, 2016-17	25
Bryan Mbeumo, Brentford, 2022-23	25

Manchester City have secured the Premier League title but Brentford are still chasing European football. Should they succeed – they need to win while Aston Villa and Tottenham Hotspur both fail to achieve victory – then they and Brighton would be the first pair of English clubs to qualify for Europe for the first time together since Middlesbrough and Millwall in 2004-05. That outcome should not be discounted.

Brentford won 2-1 away to City in November and they are the first non-big-six team since Blackburn Rovers in 1993-94 to have beaten Manchester United, Liverpool, Chelsea and Tottenham by at least a two-goal margin in one top-flight season. The 4.30pm kick offs are the latest starts for the final round of Premier League fixtures; previously they had begun at 3pm or 4pm

Mathias Jensen
(Brentford)



Pep makes a difference

Manchester City have scored an average of 1.65 goals per match more than their opponents during Pep Guardiola's seven years at the club. Liverpool, the next best among the big six in that regard, are more than half a goal behind

Big six clubs' goal difference per match in all comps since Guardiola joined Man City in 2016:

Man City	1.65
Liverpool	1.12
Chelsea	0.77
Tottenham	0.76
Man Utd	0.73
Arsenal	0.72

City's time has come

Manchester City's league games this season have averaged over eight minutes more playing time than those involving Brentford, and exactly nine and a half more minutes than Newcastle's. That means City have spent the equivalent of four full matches longer on the pitch than Newcastle this term

Ball-in-play time per Premier League game this season:

Most	
Man City	60min 36sec
West Ham	56min 47sec
Liverpool	56min 40sec
Least	
Newcastle	51min 6sec
Leeds	51min 53sec
Brentford	52min 25sec

Classic meeting

Jan 28, 1989, FA Cup fourth round: Brentford 3, Man City 1

Manchester City were heading for promotion to the top flight but succumbed to their third-tier opponents on a mudheap at Griffin Park. "We let those conditions get on top of us," admitted the City manager Mel Machin. In contrast his opposite number Steve Perryman welcomed the surface. "The conditions suited us better. City are no fools ... and to overcome them is a great result," said Perryman, who had captained Tottenham to an FA Cup final win over City in 1981. Brentford won their first meeting with City for 38 years with two goals by the Manchester-born Gary Blissett, a City supporter. He was picked for the first time in six weeks only because of a last-minute injury to Kevin Godfrey. Keith Jones hit Brentford's other goal, with the substitute Nigel Gleghorn replying for City



As a third-tier club they reached the FA Cup semi-finals in 1954, losing 2-1 to West Brom after leading after half time. They won the Football League Trophy finals of 1993 and 2001.



1950

Having played at the Old Recreation Ground since 1913, they moved in 1950 to the newly built Vale Park, which was billed as the "Wembley of the North".

Vale finished 20th in League Two in 2017 and 2018, their joint-lowest league finishes.



WHEN I FELL IN LOVE WITH TENNIS

Jamie Murray on growing up with brother Andy and his dad being mistaken for Jimmy Connors



I started playing tennis at the age of four at Dunblane Sports Club, where my mum was the club coach. I really enjoyed it and played my first tournament at the age of six when I was asked if I wanted to play in the draw with soft balls. Soon after that I started playing against some of the older kids with normal balls and never hit a soft ball again.

My first experience of watching professional tennis came at the age of eight when a bus load of kids from Dunblane went to Wimbledon in 1994. We got on Centre Court and saw the unseeded American Lori McNeil beat defending champion Steffi Graf in the first round, which was one of the biggest upsets in grand-slam history. Another vivid memory I have is of walking around the outside courts with my dad when a woman came running towards us, shouting, "Jimmy, Jimmy." She thought my dad was Jimmy Connors.



My mum, who was also the Central district coach before she became the national coach, was really good at getting lots of kids together to train and compete with a fun atmosphere. In Scotland there was a lack of players, but we had a really good group of boys and girls around our age that went on to become national champions and play in grand slams, such as Elena Baltacha, Jamie Baker and Colin Fleming.

It was also huge for me and my brother Andy that we had each other to play against. He is 15 months younger than me, so being able to compete against each other, both consciously and subconsciously, was a huge bonus for both of us.

I am super happy with how my career has turned out. I am 37 years old now and am still getting to play tennis at the top level, competing in the biggest tournaments in the world against the best players.

Tennis has opened so many doors for me through travelling the world, seeing so many places and experiencing different cultures. It has been a blessing to be able to do this for so long.

Interview by Stuart Fraser

Ford has perfect stage to turn heat on his old rival



Alex Lowe
Rugby Correspondent

Owen Farrell's memory is a little sketchy, although he is probably being modest because George Ford has never forgotten the first time they shared a rugby field. Ford was 13 and playing rugby league for Saddleworth, who had travelled 30 miles west to the home of Wigan St Patricks.

"We were all just stood there, our team and their team, and you see this lad towering over everyone," Ford says. "And you're like, 'He's not playing this game, is he? He's miles too old'.

"It turned out he did play and he killed us. He scored a handful of tries in the first half and he got told at half-time by the referee he had to temper it down a bit. We still got battered."

And so began a relationship and a rivalry that would come to be one of the central narratives with England for more than a decade. Ford *and* Farrell? Ford *or* Farrell? A question Steve Borthwick is busily pondering before the World Cup. Today will have a significant bearing on his decision. The Gallagher Premiership final between Sale Sharks and Saracens brings us the latest instalment of Ford *versus* Farrell.

"A battle of the minds," Jamie George, the Saracens and England hooker, said. "The little master and the genius."

This will be the third time that Ford and Farrell have faced each other in the Premiership final. The medal tally stands at one apiece, although Ford also won a semi-final with Leicester Tigers in 2012. Many other critical battles fought at Twickenham will shape the contest, most notably up front. Tom Curry vs Ben Earl in the back row, Jonny Hill vs Maro Itoje in the second row; two more tussles with England implications. In a role reversal of recent years, Sale will believe they can bully Saracens physically. If one pack get on top, life will become much harder for the opposition fly half. Yet Ford and Farrell, like the two quarterbacks in a Super Bowl, are the principal characters.

Alex Sanderson, Sale's director of rugby, has a unique perspective, having worked with Farrell when he was assistant coach at Saracens and having signed Ford from Leicester last summer. "They are very similar, in some ways," Sanderson says. "Their decision-making is second to none, their standards are higher than everybody else's. As a result, they look to drive other people to meet those standards.

"They are different in some ways. Owen is highly emotional, aggressive when needed. I think he thrives off that. People will follow him through what he does, he wears his heart on his sleeve. Whereas George, they won't be following so much by example as who he is. There's a softer tone about him, there's a more persuasive manner in conversation that inspires people in a slightly different way. For us, for this group, an emotionally highly strung group, George has been the missing keystone.

"He's been a catalyst. George has added to the team by way of his calmness in adversity, his clear direction. With Faz [Farrell], we'd get clarity, we'd get drive, but there's a calm aura around George that serves our team well."

That Ford is in the final for a fifth time with a third club (Leicester 2012, 2013, 2022; Bath 2015) underlines his influence on a team. Bath have not been close to Twickenham since he left. Last year, Ford piloted Leicester from the brink of relegation to the title, although a first-half achilles injury meant the drop-goal glory fell to Freddie Burns. Ford did not play for Sale until the new year, but his eye for detail was critical in sharpening up their attack.

His address to the squad while still in a moon boot was, the players said, a lightbulb moment. They could see what was possible. Attack spaces not faces. Propel Manu Tuilagi into weak shoulders and through holes. So simple when you put it like that. "He was a massive influence in changing the way we attack," Tom Roebuck, the wing, says. "Sale of old probably weren't as expansive, so that has been a big focus since he's come in."

Now he is back in the No10 jersey, Ford has been brilliant at manipulating opposition defences, thinking phases ahead like a chess grandmaster to create holes, mismatches or overlaps. And he remains a triple threat, still capable of those scuttling runs, but a precision passer and the most intelligent, accurate kicker of a ball in the Premiership. Saracens cannot afford to show him space in the backfield. Leicester won the league on the back of Ford's kicking, a high-pressure defence and powerful set piece. Sale will offer that but more: with Rob du Preez stationed at outside centre as a second playmaker they are a more expansive threat. "The way he prepares a team for a big game means he's almost like a coach on the field," George said of Ford. "He's got a brilliant rugby brain and he'll have been looking at our tapes. They're a big, physical team and then you put the little master George Ford in the mix, he makes them a different team entirely."

By the end of Eddie Jones's time as England coach, he staked everything on building his team around Farrell, while developing Marcus Smith. Borthwick sees the picture differently. Ford is right back in the mix and the pressure is on Farrell for the England No10 jersey.

Whatever struggles he had in the Six Nations, Farrell has responded, driving his club in a new direction. Saracens were "agitated and aggravated" after last year's final that they had allowed Leicester to dictate. When Mark McCall, the director of rugby, and Farrell spoke over the summer, they agreed about the need to attack this season with a more proactive mentality. It was not about being gung-ho, but less formulaic: looking for opportunities on the field wherever they presented themselves. It has opened a new dimension to how Saracens play. They earned 13 try bonus points from 20 regular season games, compared with 12 from 24 last season.

Experience counts enormously on these occasions. Sale are at Twickenham for the first time since Jason Robinson captained them to the title in 2006; Saracens in their ninth final since 2010 and favourites to land a sixth title.

There are compelling storylines everywhere: Jackson Wray will play his 309th and final game for Saracens; Sanderson is coaching against his mentor McCall; Joe Carpenter plays in the final after starting the season with Sale FC in the third tier. At the heart of it all will be Ford and Farrell, rekindling a rivalry that has lasted more than half a lifetime. There is no chance of Farrell tempering it down today. Not with a Premiership title on the line, not with the England No10 jersey up for grabs.



Attendance low for final

Will Kelleher

The attendance for today's Premiership final between Sale Sharks and Saracens will be the lowest for the showpiece at Twickenham since 2007.

About 60,000 spectators are expected at the league's showpiece event today — 20,000 short of the stadium's capacity due to a number of mitigating factors.

While the final has not been sold out for around a decade, before the pandemic it regularly attracted more than 75,000 fans. This year the final sees two of the league's least-supported clubs pitted together, in a season where some fans have grown apathetic to the sport after a raft of crises, including the demise of Wasps and Worcester Warriors.

Both clubs were given 5,000 tickets each, but the trip south is expensive for some Sale fans with train tickets to London costing more than £100 from Manchester.

'A lot of clubs do dinners, all suited and booted, but we prefer carnage'

Will Kelleher talks to the childhood rivals, now team-mates, aiming to follow in footsteps of Sale's 2006 heroes

One of many challenges today for Joe Carpenter and Tom Roebuck, the exuberant youths in the Sale Sharks team, will be stopping themselves from being overawed by playing in a Gallagher Premiership final against Saracens.

Carpenter, 21, started the season as the full back for third-tier Sale FC, not the Sharks, in front of a few hundred people at Heywood Road. And while Roebuck, the 22-year-old wing, has been in the Sale team for two seasons, today he will be trying to emulate the heroes of the club he has supported since he was a boy.

He is too young to remember Jason Robinson's 2006 title-winning side, the only Sale team to win the league, but coming from a Sharks-mad family he is fully aware of the importance of today's game. Roebuck's father was a season-ticket holder at Sale long before his son played, and his brother is bringing 30 friends to Twickenham. The pressure is on to make it a special day for them.

"We want to create a legacy that we can really belong to," Roebuck says. "We don't know too much about that 2006 final — me anyway — but knowing that we've won the title before and seeing the names of the guys who were in that is a big driver for us to do it again."

Neither he nor Carpenter have ever played at Twickenham, or in front of a 60,000-strong crowd. But the prospect is exciting, rather than daunting for the pair.

Carpenter says: "The craziest thing for me is that I've watched the Premiership final for the past ten, 11 years, and so for my first season to end in a Premiership final…

"You see the celebrations and everything afterwards and you're just watching it on the telly thinking, 'That looks amazing'. Now we have an opportunity to potentially do that, it's a big driving factor."

Roebuck was born in Inverness but his family soon moved to Cheshire — so he qualifies for Scotland and England. Carpenter, meanwhile, grew up over the Pennines in Leeds and had to leave the Yorkshire Carnegie academy when the club ran into financial trouble and could not afford to keep their players in 2019.

"I moved over just before my 18th birthday, four years ago," Carpenter says.

"My year and the year above got the brunt of it, as we were hoping to move into a professional environment at the time. We were a good side in the Championship and that's how we saw it all progressing.

"When it all happened our academy manager just sent out a list of the players and said if any clubs wanted them, please take them. I was fortunate to get a spot here, but a lot of the lads didn't."

Coming through the ranks he had played Roebuck a few times — when Yorkshire faced Cheshire — and the pair did not get on at all. "He was a gobby little shite," Roebuck says of Carpenter.

Carpenter has a similar memory of his one-time rival, saying: "He was all talk this one. It was the same when Carnegie played Sale.

"We then met at [Sale] under-18s camp and just got on really well. We were good friends ever since."

Now the pair live together in a flat in Spinningfields, in the heart of Manchester. They teamed-up at Sale's end-of-season party last year, performing *Thiago Silva*, a grime song by the rappers Dave and AJ Tracey, much to the delight of the rest of the squad.

That event — called "Shark Fest" — was held at the home of Simon and Michelle Orange, the club owners, who quickly realised that it was a bad idea. "I think we ruined the grass," Roebuck says with a laugh.

"Yeah it got a bit rogue last year. Well, it got a bit rogue this year too,"



How they line up

Saracens		Sale Sharks
Alex Goode	15	Joe Carpenter
Max Malins	14	Tom Roebuck
Alex Lozowski	13	Rob du Preez
Nick Tompkins	12	Manu Tuilagi
Sean Maitland	11	Arron Reed
Owen Farrell (c)	10	George Ford
Ivan van Zyl	9	Gus Warr
Eroni Mawi	1	Simon McIntyre
Jamie George	2	Akker van der Merwe
Marco Riccioni	3	Nick Schonert
Maro Itoje	4	Jean-Luc du Preez
Hugh Tizard	5	Jonny Hill
Nick Isiekwe	6	Tom Curry
Ben Earl	7	Sam Dugdale
Jackson Wray	8	Jono Ross (c)
Replacements		**Replacements**
Theo Dan		Ewan Ashman
Mako Vunipola		Bevan Rodd
Christian Judge		Coenie Oosthuizen
Callum Hunter-Hill		Josh Beaumont
Toby Knight		Tom Ellis
Aled Davies		Raffi Quirke
Duncan Taylor		Sam James
Elliot Daly		Tom O'Flaherty

Referee Luke Pearce
Assistants Karl Dickson, Christophe Ridley
TMO Tom Foley
Kick-off Today, 3pm
TV ITV, BT Sports 2

How the fly halves compare

	Owen Farrell	George Ford
Age	31	30
England caps	106	81
Premiership points	1,625	1,702
Premiership finals	7	4
Premiership titles	5	2
2022-23 Premiership games	12	7
2022-23 Premiership points	140	57

JAMES SPEAKMAN FOR THE TIMES



Flatmates Carpenter, left, and Roebuck intend to leave Saracens in a spin today

Carpenter says, referring to the latest Shark Fest held after Sale had beaten Leicester Tigers in the play-off semi-final a fortnight ago. "A lot of clubs do dinners, suited and booted, but here we prefer just carnage."

After Sale beat Leicester, Carpenter's coach from Sale FC sent him a text message.

"He was like, 'from playing Moseley at Heywood Road to a Prem final'," Carpenter says. "I like to think I would have got a Premiership opportunity but to think at the start of the year that I would be starting in a Prem final, then I would have been like, 'It is not going to happen this year.' "

He gained his chance when Luke James and Jason Woodward were injured, and took it superbly — scoring seven tries in 17 league games this year.

"Everyone knew the capability was there, he just needed to get on the pitch and show it," Roebuck says of his mate. "When it happened, it was not really a shock because we knew it was going to be special."

The pair have come to represent the strong northern core of the Sale team, and are proud of that. With the James brothers, Sam and Luke, Arron Reed, Gus Warr and George Ford they are showing that playing for the club round the corner brings something more out of a player.

"There have been moments when we should have conceded tries and the boys have stuck at it and ground it out," Carpenter says. "You wouldn't do it if you didn't love playing for the club."

Whatever happens today the Oranges have paid for the entire squad to fly to Marbella for a party; 47 Sharks will be on the plane but should they leave a seat for one more guest?

"Hopefully we can get the trophy on the plane with us. That would be pretty funny," Carpenter says.

SPORT NOTEBOOK

Martyn Ziegler
Chief Sports Reporter



Mystery of Raiola's link to firm – months after death

There were many reasons why Mino Raiola was called a super-agent but even by his standards there was some surprise when he was registered as the "person with significant control" of a new British company nine months after his death.

Raiola, whose clients included Erling Haaland and Paul Pogba and who built a reputation for handling some of the biggest deals in football, died in April last year aged 54 after a serious illness.



Eyebrows were raised therefore when the Norwegian newspaper Dagbladet discovered via Companies House that Carmine Raiola — his full name — had been registered as the person with significant control of Une Limited when it was incorporated on January 13. Four months later, on May 11, a new Companies House filing for Une Ltd stated that Raiola ceased being a person with significant control on January 13, the same day it was first registered. The company's shares are listed as being owned by One Sarl Ltd, the Monaco-based company run by Rafaela Pimenta who was Raiola's business partner until his death.

Une Ltd's only director is registered as Julia Hoyle, a London-based tax adviser who has worked for some years with Raiola and Pimenta, including as part of companies registered with the FA as intermediaries.

She is also a director of York Promotions Ltd, a company set up in March of which Haaland and his father Alfie are also directors. The Manchester City star is registered as the sole shareholder and person with significant control.

There is no suggestion of any wrongdoing over the registration of Raiola, though it is unclear whether it was a simple mistake as those involved in Une Ltd have declined to comment. Dagbladet has reported that the Taxation Disciplinary Board is investigating a complaint around the initial registration of Raiola's name, but the body declined to comment.

Uefa's venue pick

Debbie Hewitt, the FA's chairwoman who also chairs the Euro 2028 bid by the four home nations and Ireland, says it will be up to Uefa to decide where the opening match and knockout rounds are played — the final is scheduled for Wembley if the bid is successful.

"That is very much Uefa's decision," she told The Times. "There are lots of expectations but Uefa are very even-handed." The British/Irish bid is up against Turkey, with the vote in October.

Hewitt was elected as a Fifa vice-president in April but says she has not yet thought about standing for Uefa when the final term of the FA's representative, David Gill, comes to an end in 2025.

Rebels defy IBA

The civil war in boxing will reach new heights this weekend when 25 countries, including England, compete at an event in Eindhoven, in the Netherlands, in defiance of the International Boxing Association (IBA).

A new breakaway international body called World Boxing has been set up amid dissatisfaction with the Russian-led IBA, which is now making empty threats against those who have joined. The breakaway group, including GB Boxing and the United States, wants nothing more to do with the IBA and is trying to get back into the Olympic family.

No Toney total

Most of the written judgments of cases brought by the FA for breaching betting rules include the total sum gambled by the miscreant. In every case so far the gamblers have lost out financially.

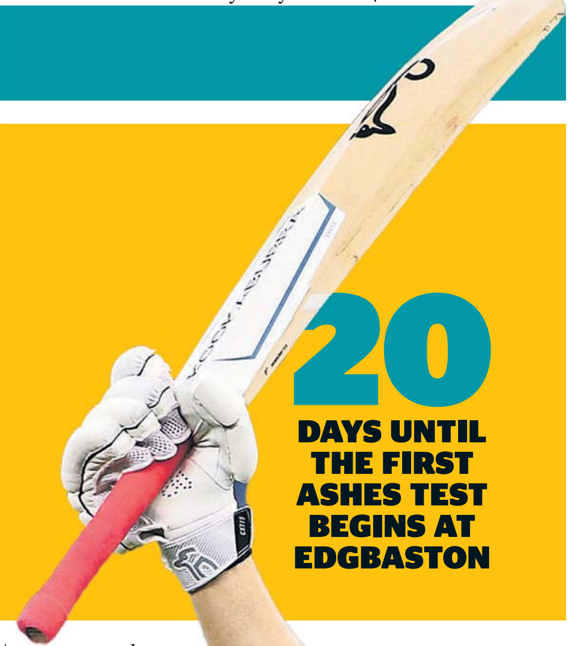
The judgment in Ivan Toney's case does not include those details for some reason. In Joey Barton's case in 2017, when he was banned for 13 months, the findings showed he had wagered £188,000 over ten years, making a loss of £16,700. Toney was this week banned for eight months after admitting to 232 breaches during a four-year period.

United to lose out

Newcastle United's qualification for the Champions League should mean their income rises by at least £65 million — 33 per cent of last season's revenue — but their earning potential will be hampered by the "coefficient" element of Uefa's financial distribution.

The system allocates 30 per cent of the total cash via a points system based on performances over the previous ten years in Europe, with bonus points for winning European trophies. Manchester City, the highest-ranked English club, earn about £28 million in coefficient funding but Newcastle — who have not played in any European competition for ten years — will earn between £1 million and £3 million from that stream.

How 'quirky' batsman Labuschagne grew to become the world's best



20
DAYS UNTIL THE FIRST ASHES TEST BEGINS AT EDGBASTON

Test cricket's first concussion sub is now the No1 batsman. **Steve James** discovers what makes this not so weird and wonderful Australian player tick



It was in December 2021 during the most recent Ashes down under that Australia's Marnus Labuschagne first rose to No1 in the Test batting rankings. Among the welter of messages of congratulations was one from Charlie Hemphrey, a former team-mate at Queensland and Glamorgan.

"Many people, including myself, laughed when in 2019 you said you wanted to be the best player in the world but look who's laughing now!" it read.

Labuschagne had long set this as his goal. "Marnus has wanted to be the best Test batsman in the world since he was about four," his manager, Dean Kino, says with a laugh.

Blair Copelin, his junior coach at Redlands Tigers Cricket Club in Brisbane, recalls telling Labuschagne that one day he could be capable of such greatness, and was promptly met with a look in the youngster's eyes and a nod that suggested that "he had obviously been thinking about that for years".

Setting out such lofty ambitions early in one's career can often lead to accusations of arrogance and delusion, but the very best athletes thrive on that drive and focus. Sam Warburton, the former Wales and British & Irish Lions rugby union flanker, whom I know well, is one of the most humble athletes I have ever met. Yet, from a young age his stated aim was to be the best player in the world in his position, often using a personal identity statement of "I am the world's best seven" in any times of doubt.

It was early in the county season of 2019 that Labuschagne had revealed his desire to become the world's best batsman to some of his new Glamorgan colleagues, including Hemphrey. It was little wonder many of them thought that he was dreaming. Although Labuschagne had played five Tests by then, he had averaged a modest 26.25, and even a place in the Ashes squad for that summer appeared unlikely.

But after a fine campaign that year for Glamorgan, relishing the increased number of games with 1,114 runs at an average of over 65, a gutsy 41 out of a total of 105 in an Australia trial match on a spicy pitch at Southampton changed all that, eventually leading to a shock return to Test cricket as a concussion substitute for Steve Smith during the Lord's Test.

It was a transformative time for him, a far cry from his formative years in Klerksdorp, a mining town in South Africa, before he moved to Australia aged ten when his father, Andre, was offered the task of running a new mine in Queensland.

Labuschagne, 28, is still ranked No1 — with only Joe Root taking the mantle from him for a time in 2022 — but the Englishman Hemphrey provides an interesting point of comparison on Labuschagne's journey.

They arrived together at Glamorgan that 2019 season, Hemphrey as a local and Labuschagne as the overseas player. They had very similar first-class records, averaging in the low thirties with four centuries each, though the 24-year-old Labuschagne was five years younger.

Hemphrey, born in Doncaster but raised in Kent and having come through their academy system, had emigrated to Australia in 2013 in frustration at not getting a county contract. When he received a call in 2015 from Queensland's convenor of selectors, Trevor Hohns, asking him to make his first-class debut, he thought it was a prank. At the time, Hemphrey was working for Virgin, "throwing bags" at Brisbane Airport.

It was actually Labuschagne who was dropped for Hemphrey, and later in 2016 when both men made centuries against Western Australia, it was Labuschagne rather than Hemphrey who was dropped for Joe Burns, who was returning from the Australia side.

But how their subsequent paths have differed. While Labuschagne is now on top of the world, Hemphrey works for Racing Queensland, and has not played cricket seriously since Glamorgan's Bob Willis Trophy match against Gloucestershire in 2020 after falling foul of intransigent ECB regulations that, because he had played as a local for Queensland in the Sheffield Shield, would not categorise him as an England-qualified player.

Hemphrey knows how Labuschagne was viewed back in Australia then. It has transpired that Labuschagne was a rare positive to emerge from the Sandpapergate scandal because if he had not played in those five early Tests — with Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft banned — he would not have been able to sign for Glamorgan in 2019. The ruling then, since altered, was that overseas players had to have played international cricket.

But there was a feeling in Australia that he should not have played those Tests, that other players were far more deserving and that Labuschagne was just a favourite of Justin Langer, the head coach, because of his extraordinary work ethic. "A lot of players thought he got picked just because Langer liked him," Hemphrey says.

Labuschagne had a reputation for throwing his wicket away unnecessarily. "He gave the bowlers too many ways to get him out, really," Hemphrey adds. And then there was his attitude, which was often misconstrued, especially by the old guard of Sheffield Shield veterans. There were all the tics and histrionics, the feeling that his yearning to practise so much was selfish and a general sense that he was just too cocky.

Labuschagne and Hemphrey became good friends at Glamorgan. Labuschagne was there at the hospital in Cardiff at 6am with food when Hemphrey's wife was giving birth to their first child. Hemphrey is full of flattery for him: "He's a good bloke, extremely loyal, hard-working, dedicated."

Hemphrey also played for Redlands Tigers under Copelin, who first saw Labuschagne at the age of 13.

"My first impression was probably the same impression people still get," Copelin, who is now director of cricket at Gregory Terrace, a private school in Brisbane, says. "He had a lot of energy and a distinct love of the game. He has always had an unbelievable work ethic and a strong desire to get better.

"People would say he had a bad attitude, but it was just that he had so much passion. The big appeals, the chirp, I think people misinterpreted it and now know it was that he just had a strong love for the game."

Labuschagne is deeply religious. He met his future wife, Rebekah, at the Gateway Baptist Church in Redlands, Brisbane. The pair married in 2017 and they had a daughter, Hallie, last year. He has an eagle sticker on his bat relating to his favourite Bible verse, Isaiah 40: 31, which reads: "For those that hope in the Lord, he shall renew their strength. He shall soar on wings like eagles. He shall run and not grow weary and talk and not be faint."

"I speak to him every day and I have never heard him swear and never say a bad thing about any other human being," says Kino, a Melbourne-based lawyer who looks after cricketers as a hobby and whose only other client when agreeing to manage Labuschagne in 2015 was Kevin Pietersen.

"He has impeccable ethics, morals, and behaviour. He is the most unlikely person to say or do the wrong thing and he cares deeply about his team-mates. He has a genuine appreciation of being able to do what he does, which comes back to his religion.

"He doesn't fear failure. As long as he works on the process the results are out of his hands. Other players fear failure. It is a unique characteristic."

There is little doubt then that Labuschagne is not your archetypical Australian cricketer, with even Hemphrey admitting that "he can wind people up".

But Kino is keen to address a commonly held, very harsh perception that he is a little "weird".

"There is nothing weird about him," he says. "He is quirky, but not weird. He just loves what he is doing, and he is a much deeper thinker than people give him credit for. Because he is so passionate people assume it is a lack of maturity, but it is not that, he just loves what he is doing. How many pro athletes do you see enjoying themselves as much as Marnus does out on the field?

"He has just been named the seventh-most marketable sportsperson in Australia [he is an ambassador for the likes of Weet-Bix, Kookaburra, Nike and Gatorade but just focuses on his cricket while Kino deals with such off-field stuff]. The comment was that the fans just love him because he is so authentic. He has time for kids all the time."

Indeed, during his first match for Glamorgan this season, having just been dismissed cheaply, Labuschagne was climbing the steps of the Sophia Gardens pavilion when a young girl asked for his autograph. He duly stopped and obliged when most players would have merely stomped off in high dudgeon.

When Labuschagne had been little more than a kid himself at 17, Copelin had made a defining decision that it was time for his protégé to see another coach. Copelin's daughter was ill, and after a meeting with Labuschagne's father in which he stressed his son's desire to play for Australia, Copelin called Neil D'Costa in Sydney.

D'Costa had already helped Michael Clarke and Phillip Hughes and he knew of Labuschagne, even if he had not been that impressed with him at first.

"I was coaching New South Wales Under-19 against Queensland Under-19s," D'Costa says. "Marnus was appealing from deep extra cover for lbws. I come from a conservative Anglo-Indian family and the traditions of the game are very much entrenched in my DNA so appealing from deep cover …"

D'Costa has a reputation as something of a maverick and straight-talking (with the odd expletive thrown in) coach but as Copelin says, "I knew he would push Marnus's buttons."

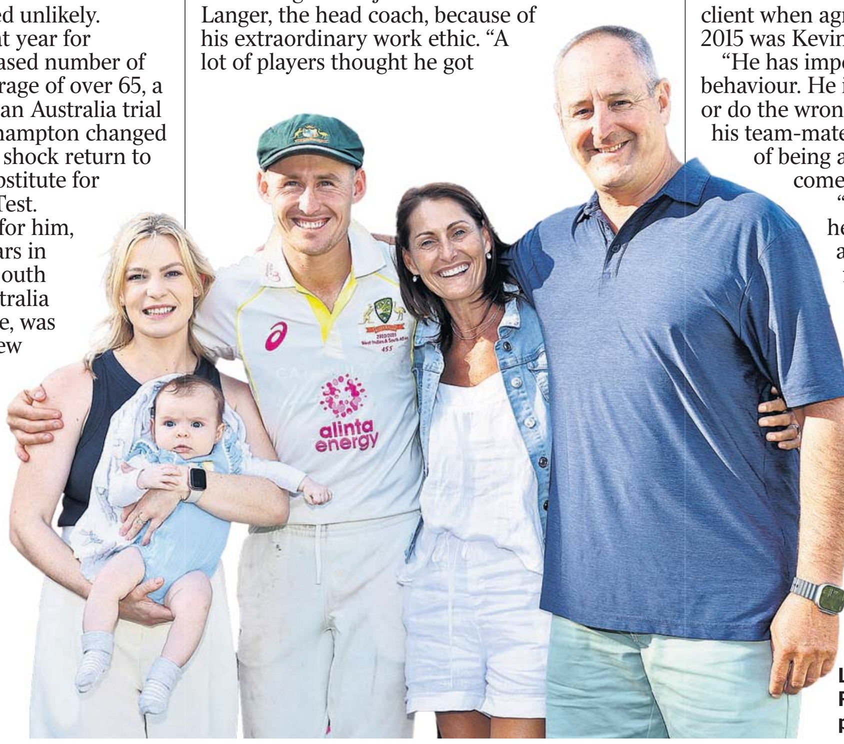
And he certainly did that.

"The traditional way where you troubleshoot with people's batting, I don't do that any more," D'Costa says. "I start from scratch. I said to Marnus, 'I'm not going to tell you what you're doing wrong, I'm going to put you on to a programme where you are at zero and walk you through how it works, why it works, what I do, why I'm doing it. If you like it, take it, if you don't, then f*** off!' He bought into it straight away."

Labuschagne's desire to practise has always been legendary.

"When he says six more balls, you know it is going to be 60 more," Copelin says. "There is one story that sticks out. We were trying to get the athletic back leg, knee down a bit to hit the ball through point, hit the sweepers hard, getting him to play the ball late. He struggled with it. So, I said, 'Ah, Marnus, you're wasting my time. I'm going. You can come back to me when you've done it and worked it out.'

"The thing with Marnus is he had a bowling machine at home and his mum, dad or sister would feed him balls. He rang me up and said, 'Yeah, I've got it.' And that was that afternoon. That's what he does. If he struggles with something, he has got that much resilience and perseverance that he'll go and find ways. He really likes the problem-solving aspect of the



Labuschagne with his wife, Rebekah, daughter Hallie and parents Andre and Alta

ICC Test batting rankings

		Rating
1	Marnus Labuschagne, Australia	915
2	Kane Williamson, New Zealand	883
3	Steve Smith, Australia	872
4	Joe Root, England	871
5	Babar Azam, Pakistan	862
6	Travis Head, Australia	853
7	Usman Khawaja, Australia	815
8	Daryl Mitchell, New Zealand	792
9	Dimuth Karunaratne, Sri Lanka	780
10	Rishabh Pant, India	766





game. For someone who was never that good at school he has done remarkably well in that aspect."

Even though D'Costa stresses that it is "Blair's relationship" with Labuschagne, he has become the batsman's mentor —"Marnus the player was really built by Marnus and Neil," Kino says — and Labuschagne still sees both of them for sessions, meeting them together in Brisbane before joining Glamorgan this season.

But it is also clear that the Glamorgan head coach, Matthew Maynard, had a huge influence on Labuschagne in 2019. "I would put so much of Marnus's success down to Matt," Hemphrey says. This is not something that irks D'Costa. "As far as I'm concerned, if you are someone's mentor you want anyone in his life that adds value, right?" he says.

Labuschagne was recommended to Glamorgan by Copelin because he knew the director of cricket, Mark Wallace, from the former wicketkeeper's time at Redlands Tigers. "I sent Wally a message saying, 'You need to get this fella, he's a beauty and you'll get him cheap too,'" Copelin says.

Glamorgan signed Labuschagne for his character as much as anything. He was actually one of the lowest-paid players at the club initially, and was happy with that, asking only for a house near the ground and the ability to use the club's practice facilities whenever he wanted.

"We knew he loved the game, lived for it, and had been dubbed the new 'Mr Cricket' in terms of that obsession, if you like," Maynard says. "I felt we needed an overseas [player] who had that passion for the game, brought something different, brought a lot of conversation to the dressing room."

They definitely got that. Maynard took one look at Labuschagne in the nets and told Wallace to sign him on a five-year contract.

Labuschagne is still with Glamorgan and feels a tremendous loyalty for their punt on him, declining offers worth at least double elsewhere on the county scene.

It is little surprise that Maynard and Labuschagne clicked so easily. Having seen them together a little, it reminds me of the player-coach relationship Maynard and Duncan Fletcher had at Glamorgan, forever talking about the game, its techniques and theories to improve it.

"Definitely," Maynard agrees. "I think that's why we got on. When we get down to it, we will bore our wives stupid with our conversations. They will go, 'Ah, not this again, why are you debating again?'"

D'Costa thinks that Labuschagne felt comfortable because he knew instantly that Maynard liked him, which had not always been the case with some coaches in Australia.

"He felt wanted, he could just be him," Hemphrey says by way of confirmation. "He respected Matt because he was actually talking cricket to him, and in depth about batting, which we weren't getting here in Australia.

"Once he learnt to bat smart, I knew Marnus would score runs because he just loves being out there. He hates being in the dressing room."

In Cardiff, Labuschagne became friends with James Botham, the Cardiff and Wales rugby player and grandson of you-know-who. The pair found themselves living close to each other in the Pontcanna area near Sophia Gardens and first met in the Robin Hood pub once owned by the singer Charlotte Church's mother.

"He was always playing cricket in the back yard," Botham says. "He was using those reaction balls that go in any direction. No wonder he can hit the ball so well.

"Even when I went for a dog walk he had to bring a bat and a ball and he was smacking a cricket ball for the dogs."

Fast forward to that day at Lord's when Labuschagne replaced Smith, and Botham just happened to be there with a Cardiff rugby colleague, James Down. They passed Labuschagne in the nets on the Nursery Ground as they entered.

> "Marnus was a ball boy — then he was batting. It was so weird to watch him

"We walked past and Marnus was throwing the ball for someone," Botham says. "Basically, we just gave him some shit, saying, 'You're being a ball boy.' We were chatting in the box later and then it was suddenly like, 'Shit, Marnus is coming into bat.'

"I was over the moon for him. With sport you have to take your chances and, bloody hell, didn't he do that? It was so weird watching him."

Hemphrey was equally thrilled. "We were in Colwyn Bay playing Lancashire and everyone was dying for him to do well, as much as we wanted England to win," he says. "I was so happy. I had played more with him over that 12-month period than anyone. I had seen how hard he had worked."

Nevertheless, Hemphrey is still keen for England to win the Ashes this summer. "I'll still be sending Rob Key a dossier on how to get him out," he says, with a chuckle. "I know Keysy from my Kent days."

Worryingly for England, D'Costa, who has been working on Labuschagne's balance recently by getting him to hit balls from a crash mat, thinks there is so much more to come from him, despite that No1 ranking and a Test average of 57.52, with ten centuries.

"Word for word, I said to him recently, 'You're not even close to how good you are. I genuinely believe that'," D'Costa says.

The reason?

"I asked him to look at Kane Williamson, Joe Root, Virat Kohli, Steve Smith and himself, and watch the last ten outs and tell me who stands out," he says.

It was Labuschagne. Too often he gets himself out, revisiting an old habit.

"Too many times you think, 'What was he doing?'" D'Costa says. "You don't see that from the others."

Labuschagne's average against England is "only" 45.86, so you can see where the improvement is. England had better watch out.

Top counties left feeling used amid rising player power



Mike Atherton

Chief Cricket Correspondent

Jason Roy's calf injury shortly before the start of Surrey's fixture against Middlesex in the Blast on Thursday evening was an untimely one for player and club. Yet, from a broader perspective, it also highlighted some of the concerns outlined recently by Surrey's director of cricket, Alec Stewart, and other DOCs, around the pressure on county cricket.

Roy had recently returned from the Indian Premier League where he was playing for Kolkata Knight Riders. This was his first game back for the club. His injury means a period of rehabilitation under Surrey's medical staff for his next engagement — which, depending on how long the recovery takes, could turn out to be for Los Angeles Knight Riders in Major League Cricket (MLC) in July.

For, in another twist on the day he was injured, it was announced that Roy had come to an agreement with ECB regarding his contractual arrangements. It was agreed that the player could terminate his "incremental" contract with ECB (worth about £66,000) so that he could boost his earnings (£300,000 over two years), and get playing time with Los Angeles in the window between the Blast and the Hundred.

On one level it is a straightforward story. The discussions have been amicable, given that MLC does not clash with any England white-ball cricket, nor much domestic one-day cricket (Surrey have insisted Roy is available for finals day of the Blast if they make it). Yet the statements issued by Roy and by the ECB, with no mention of Surrey, with whom he holds his principal contract, highlighted the point that Stewart and the other DOCs have been making.

On their part, the ECB said: "We have absolute confidence and faith that Jason is committed to England cricket," adding it would not affect his selection for the World Cup in October in India. For his part, Roy said: "I hope to play for England for many more years, that remains my priority." As they prepare to help to get their player fit, Surrey may have been forgiven for thinking: what about us?

A week before Roy was injured, Stewart was vocal about the current imbalance from a county perspective. He said: "They [the players] go away and play elsewhere and when they come back they want time in the indoor school with the best coaches just to get ready to go off and play in another franchise competition. 'Oh and by the way I've got a little calf injury so can I get treated by the physio, the doctor, the medical staff and can I get rehab as well?'"

It is not that counties want to prevent their players from maximising their financial or cricketing opportunities. It is simply that all the benefits lie with the players: counties must employ players for 12 months, with all the holistic benefits that a year-round contract entails, while players have the freedom of movement between October and March, despite these contractual obligations.

These 12-month, year-round contracts were implemented in the late 1990s and were designed to be mutually beneficial: players would have their payments smoothed out over 12 months (we got a slight uplift in salary) which helped with mortgage payments. In an era of greater professionalism, clubs got an element of control over their players' fitness and cricket development in the winter months.

This environment has changed. The opportunities now for cricketers below the elite level are exponentially different from what they were. More than 70 registered professional players were engaged this winter in various commitments. Although the Professional Cricketers' Association has warned against the move away from 12-month contracts, it seems inevitable that player contracts will adapt to reflect this reality.

But with greater flexibility, there are obvious dangers: counties could then be tempted into exploitative manoeuvres where red-ball cricket is concerned; the temptation for cricketers to move towards white-ball cricket only would increase; the issue of player availability in the English summer would be obvious.

How big a problem is it? Temperamentally, most county cricketers will still want the embrace of year-round employment, and for counties that remains the ideal arrangement. At the moment it is more of a problem for clubs like Surrey and Lancashire, who have the biggest and best squads and lose them to other competitions. For some counties, this problem barely registers.

But the landscape is rapidly changing, will affect more counties, and it is impossible not to have sympathy with Stewart and his fellow DOCs who must navigate the demands and expectations of their supporters and the power enjoyed by players. As the top players increasingly dance to the tune of franchised competitions and international commitments, counties are being squeezed from all sides.

Ex-Yorkshire players fined

Six former Yorkshire players who were found to have used racist language during their time at the county have been handed fines totalling £37,000 by the Cricket Discipline Commission (Elizabeth Ammon writes).

The former England players Tim Bresnan, Gary Ballance and Matthew Hoggard and former coaches Richard Pyrah, Andrew Gale and John Blain were all found to have used discriminatory or racist language by the disciplinary panel after allegations made by former player Azeem Rafiq. All six have been fined between £2,500 and £6,000 but it is believed that at least one of the former players will refuse to pay.

Abbott equals T20 record

Sean Abbott hit the joint-fastest century in T20 Blast history as Surrey defeated Kent at the Oval. The 31-year-old Australia all-rounder hit 11 sixes in reaching his ton from only 34 balls — equalling the mark of the late Andrew Symonds for Kent in 2004. It is the joint fourth-fastest century of all-time in T20 cricket, only four balls slower than the record set by Chris Gayle in the 2013 IPL. Abbott smashed 30 from the 17th over, bowled by his international team-mate Kane Richardson, and finished on 110 not out from 41 balls as Surrey posted 223 for five. Kent replied with 182 for seven and lost by 41 runs.

Outdated Monaco needs an upgrade

Alasdair Reid
Monaco


ATP IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

Hamilton looks for a gap to get past Esteban Ocon's Alpine in last year's race

It can be hard enough to jostle a way around the bustling labyrinth of Monaco's streets on foot and the task is certainly no easier in a Formula One car. Of all the F1 circuits in use today, Monaco is, by a clear margin, the one where overtaking is most difficult.

Well-nigh impossible, some drivers will argue, especially near the sharp end of the race. Definitive statistics for overtaking are hard to pin down, and can be easily skewed by weather or events, but Monaco routinely produces fewer passing manoeuvres than any other track.

It was always thus. From its first race in 1929, Monaco's uniquely quirky combination of short straights, narrow streets and tight corners made overtaking a challenge. In recent times, with F1 cars becoming longer, wider and faster, the challenge has intensified. It is not necessarily a bad thing that F1 retains such an anachronistic outlier of a venue on its race calendar, but even lovers of Monaco must admit that the sport has literally outgrown the place.

5
overtakes at the 2022 Monaco Grand Prix, the fewest of any F1 circuit — São Paulo had the most with 62

Like the Old Course at St Andrews, Monaco stands on its history and prestige rather than a layout that would never be contemplated in the present era.

"It has a special place on the grand prix calendar, a hugely valuable one," Christian Horner, the Red Bull team principal, said. "It is always exciting to come to this venue. The same points apply to all races, but some just have that extra value attached to them.

"Facilities have changed dramatically and everything has improved. The only thing that hasn't changed, obviously, is the circuit. The cars are so big now that the prospect of overtaking is virtually impossible under normal running conditions.

"For the long-term viability of this venue everything has to keep evolving, so it would be great to look at introducing some genuine overtaking opportunities or to adapt the circuit over a period of time."

Such overtaking, as might be seen this weekend, is likely to be near the back of the grid, especially if one of the faster cars has a poor qualifying session and has to carve a way back through the field. The fact that a number of teams are also introducing significant upgrade packages could also mix things up a little.

McLaren are one of those teams, and the most obvious change they have made since their previous outing, in Miami three weeks ago, is in the livery. McLaren are the only team to have secured motor racing's so-called "Triple Crown" of victories at Monaco, Le Mans and the Indy 500, and they have given their MCL60 cars a makeover, with three different colour schemes, each honouring one leg of that achievement.

Glossing over failure? McLaren are currently joint-fifth (with Alpine) in the constructors' championship, but most of their points came from a solid performance in Australia, where Lando Norris finished sixth and Oscar Piastri was eighth. They failed to collect a single point in three of this year's five races. In Miami, Norris and Piastri were 17th and 19th respectively.

McLaren finished fifth in last year's constructors' race, but would have done a lot better if Daniel Ricciardo had lived up to his reputation and delivered more points. As it was, Norris did most of the heavy lifting, consistently running near the front of F1's midfield pack. Overall, with Ricciardo's contract being terminated a year early — reportedly by mutual consent — there were solid grounds for believing that the Woking team could do even better in 2023.

That optimism evaporated in F1's desert swing as Norris and Piastri failed to score in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, the first two races of the season. In the wake of those results, the technical director James Key was ousted and a new three-man executive engineering team brought in instead. David Sanchez, formerly of Ferrari, is due to take Key's old role, but cannot join until January next year.

It has been a frustrating period for Norris, but can he now see light at the end of Monaco's famous tunnel? The best you could say is he is taking a tentative line on the upgrades — human and machine — for the moment.

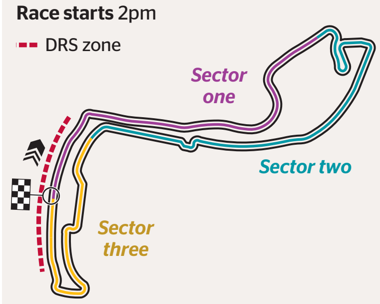
"I feel now we have better knowledge of what is needed to race against Red Bull and Mercedes and Ferrari. One is people, personnel, but another is just the effort level, the constant strive for results and perfection at every level," he said. "That winning feeling has been missed for such a long time. We are just trying to reintroduce that a little bit."

McLaren's 15 victories at Monaco is the most of any team in F1 history, but they have not won since 2008, when Lewis Hamilton was at the wheel and Norris was eight years old. Unsurprisingly, the current McLaren pilot does not feel weighed down by the history.

He said: "I guess there is a little bit [of awareness of history] as there will be with any team. I don't think it's any reason for where we are at all, although it's easy for people to believe that. The mindset now is definitely not reliant on where we have been in the past and, therefore, [that] we should automatically be in a competitive position."

RACE 7 Monaco

TV Tomorrow, live on Sky Sports F1 (1.55pm). Highlights, Channel 4 (6.30pm)
Race starts 2pm



CIRCUIT DE MONACO

Laps	78
Circuit length	3.337km
Race distance	260.286km
Lap record	1min 12.909sec Lewis Hamilton (2021)

	Drivers	Team	Points
1	M Verstappen	Red Bull	119
2	S Pérez	Red Bull	105
3	F Alonso	Alpine	75
4	L Hamilton	Mercedes	56
5	C Sainz	Ferrari	44
6	G Russell	Mercedes	40
7	C Leclerc	Ferrari	34
8	L Stroll	Aston Martin	27
9	L Norris	McLaren	10
10	P Gasly	Alpine	8

	Constructors	Points
1	Red Bull	224
2	Aston Martin	102
3	Mercedes	96
4	Ferrari	78
5	McLaren	14
6	Alpine	8

British Cycling 'furthering genocide' against us, says trans athlete

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

review of British Cycling concluded that "a culture of fear" operated on its elite programme, though the word "bullying" was controversially removed from the final report.

Bridges also claimed that British Cycling, which signed an eight-year sponsorship deal with Shell last year, was aligning with increasingly restrictive transgender laws introduced in Florida by the state's governor, Ron DeSantis.

Bridges wrote: "British Cycling is a failed organisation, the racing scene is dying under your watch and all you do is take money from petrochemical companies and engage in culture wars.

"This is a violent act. When the government is expressing admiration towards Ron DeSantis' fascist state which kidnaps children, and is itching to pass legislation to ban us from public life, this is a violent act. British Cycling are supporting this, they are furthering a genocide against us. Bans from sport is how it starts — look at what is going on in America."

Transgender women, transgender men and non-binary people will be eligible to compete in the open category, with the female category restricted to those born female. Women's events in non-competitive cycling, such as the community Breeze programme, will remain open for transgender women and non-binary people.

The policy means that Bridges' hopes of featuring in competitive women's cycling events have effectively been ended. The 22-year-old had entered the British National Omnium Championship last year until her entry was blocked and British Cycling suspended its policy pending a review. Bridges' entry had been particularly controversial as she set a national junior men's record over 25 miles in 2018, and in March last year was still registered as a male cyclist with the International Cycling Union (UCI), the world governing body. The new policy will affect about ten transgender women who hold British race licences at the moment, though no others have competed at elite level.

British Cycling's new policy follows an extensive consultation exercise and a detailed review of the scientific and medical evidence around transgender women's physical advantages remaining even after transitioning and hormone therapy. It has also taken advice with regard to the possibility of any legal challenges and worked with Scottish Cycling and Welsh Cycling on the review. The UCI still allows transgender women with reduced testosterone to take part in female events but announced a review of its policy this month after the victory of Austin Killips in the Tour of the Gila, a UCI-registered event in the United States.

It will announce the outcome of that in August, however the new British Cycling rules mean whatever happens with the UCI policy, transgender women would not be able to compete for a British women's team at the Olympics or world championships.


Bridges said that she may now stop riding

Jon Dutton, British Cycling's new chief executive, said the organisation had contacted all the transgender cyclists affected by the new policy.

He said: "There have been two key drivers for the two policies — on the competitive policy, fairness is absolutely a driving factor. On the non-competitive policy, inclusivity is absolutely the driving factor.

"We want to give clarity and direction but also ensure that anyone that wants to take part in cycling has the ability to do so. Existing race licences held by transgender women will continue to be valid until the point at which the new policy comes into force, and we are working closely with those individuals to support their continued participation."

‘It’s great to see Thomas prove older guys can still serve it up’

Chris Froome talks to **Owen Slot** about injury, inspiration and competing with the younger generation

On Thursday afternoon, after negotiating another stage of the Giro d’Italia in the *Maglia Rosa*, Geraint Thomas was on the phone to Chris Froome. That’s Thomas in Italy, leading the first Grand Tour of the year, and Froome up a mountain in Andorra on a training camp for the next one.

“We check in every now and again,” Froome says. “I said, ‘You’re raising the bar for us older guys — so keep it up.’ ” That last line sounds like a matey one-liner, but you cannot appreciate exactly how much Froome really means it.

It is kind of extraordinary, I say to Froome, to consider what Thomas is doing today when you consider also what he did for you ten years ago. Froome pauses, because he isn’t sure what I am saying. Come on, Chris. It’s ten years since you won your first Tour de France. “Oh! Yes. Yes. You’re right,” he says. “I hadn’t thought of it that way.” And, strange to say it, but I believe that. He hadn’t thought of it that way.

To you or I, Froome is the four-times Tour de France winner who is still attempting — Doggedly? Inspiringly? Deludedly? — to overcome preposterous odds to repeat what he achieved ten years ago. Yet Froome doesn’t measure out his achievements in decades or legacies. We ask: why is that guy still at it? He has a simple answer: just look at Thomas in Italy.

Ten years ago, in Froome’s maiden Tour victory, Thomas was a super-domestique working for him in Team Sky. Thomas fractured his pelvis in a fall during the opening stage but somehow made it all the way to Paris. At the start of one stage, he had to be lifted onto the saddle. “He was really suffering,” Froome recalls. “And he did a blooming good job.”

All that shared history — and look at Thomas now. Froome does; he is following Thomas’s every stage during this Giro; it is precious fuel for him. “And it’s not just a one-off performance,” he says, pointing to Thomas’s third-place finish at the Tour last year.

“It’s amazing. Performances like that give me all the more reason to get more stuck into my training. For the past few years, there’s been so much talk about this younger generation who are just untouchable, a generation who are obliterating the older guys.”

These are riders he sees in the peloton and who tell him how great he is. Or how great he was. He calls this “fanning out”.

“One thing that makes me feel my age when I am racing is when I get younger kids from another team come up to me and they basically start fanning out,” he says. “Because those years when I was winning the Tour de France, they would have been at quite an impressionable age — 15, 16 years old. And some of those kids are now coming up to me in the peloton, while we are racing, and saying, ‘Wow! It’s such an honour to be riding with you’. It does make me feel a bit old.”

He laughs as he tells this story, but there is no doubt the game has changed and that is what he is now having to deal with. “Ten years ago,” he says, “you wouldn’t have had 21 or 22-year-olds winning the Tour de France — it was unthinkable. But now, with all the data that is available to these riders from such a young age, you are getting teenagers training like Tour de France winners. So when they turn professional aged 19 or 20, they are ready to start winning the biggest races. I only turned professional at the age of 24 and then spent a good four, five years making mistakes.

“Whereas now, those kids who are turning professional in their late teens, they’ve got everything dialled. They are weighing their food, they know how many grams they need per hour. There’s a formula for them to follow now which didn’t exist when we turned professional. But I don’t think that should necessarily mean that you write off the older guys — as G [Thomas] is proving now.

“It’s so great to see him serving it up to them and showing that actually older guys do have a place in the sport.”

Surely all those advances in sport science that are helping the new generation to compete earlier should also be helping the peloton’s senior citizens to extend their winning days?

“Definitely,” he says. “And we are seeing that not just in cycling.” In particular he mentions Roger Federer, who was 36 when he won his last grand-slam singles title. Froome is 38. Thomas turned 37 on Thursday.

“But in cycling years, I think he’s a few years older,” Froome says. “He started much younger.”

A significant other in this conversation is Mark Cavendish, who is only one day younger than Froome and who announced this week that he would be retiring at the end of the season. I suggest to Froome that Cavendish retiring maybe tells the opposite story — that his generation are done. But Froome is quick to put that straight.

“Cav’s story of [2021] was an amazing comeback, winning all those Tour stages after two years’ not performing,” he says. “That was inspiring for me as well. Seeing that — it did have a big effect on me.”

The oldest ever Grand Tour winner was Chris Horner, the American, who won the 2013 Vuelta a España, aged 41. “I’d like to think that gives me time,” Froome says.

Horner used to be referred to (affectionately) by his peers as “Grandpa”. “I haven’t heard that being used yet,” Froome says, but points out that he can’t be completely sure what his team-mates call him behind his back.

Of course, the difference between Froome and Cavendish, Thomas and Horner is that they didn’t have to come back from a 54km/h smash into a wall — that, plus the subsequent airlift to hospital, the multiple fractures, the rehab and the repeated evidence that he would never be the same athlete again.

The 2019 crash offered him the option of retirement. “But I didn’t feel ready,” he says. “I always wanted to be one of those guys at or near 40 still racing my bike.”

This is how he regards it now. “The crash — that was a line in the sand for me. A new beginning. That is how I am approaching it now. I feel as if I’ve got this amazing opportunity, as if I am one of those young riders coming in and learning. It feels almost as if I’ve rewound in my career and I’m back at the beginning and I’m figuring out what the winning recipe is for the here and now, to get me back to the pointy end of the race. Now I’ve done the rehab, it’s: how do I get back to being at the front of the race?”

In three years of trying, that answer has eluded him. He says that the training camp in Andorra has been going well and that he is “finally starting to see some progress, which hopefully means I am in for a good summer”. Better than previous seasons? “I really need a bit of racing to see where I’m at, but I’d go as far as saying it’s probably the best I’ve felt for the past couple of years. But I don’t want to talk it up too much.”

Froome is not driven solely by the need for another victory. Indeed, even if he genuinely didn’t believe that winning was still a possibility, he says he would still be out on the road.

“I would be. Yes. Even if that hope was not there, I’d still be doing it, but with a different focus: refocusing my goals on being a team-mate rather than winning myself.”

I suspect this makes Froome a more balanced personality than many elite sportspeople, certainly than most who have achieved what he has on the road. He doesn’t feel any need to finish at the top and he doesn’t mind if we now watch him sliding down the other side. But if Thomas is winning, then just maybe there is a way back up to the top for him too.

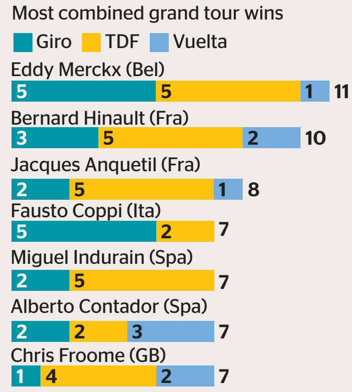
MIKE EGERTON/PA



Froome, right, and Thomas during their days racing for Team Sky. Froome has been inspired by the achievements of Thomas during this year’s Giro D’Italia

Where he stands

Most combined grand tour wins



Roglic sets up ‘horrible’ time-trial for title-chasing Thomas

Giro d’Italia
Elgan Alderman

This looked to be the day of G and Gee at the Giro, but highland fortunes are as linear as the course beneath your wheels. Geraint Thomas yielded three seconds to Primoz Roglic in the general classification but remained in the *Maglia Rosa* by 26 seconds, with a pivotal time-trial to come before tomorrow’s Roman goodbye. In front of him Derek Gee, Canada’s “The Birdwatcher”, missed out on the stage victory to Santiago Buitrago.

After 5½ hours of racing, Thomas — known as “G” — attacked Roglic inside the last 500 metres and looked as though he would extend his lead by a handful of seconds, only for the Slovenian to go past Thomas in the straight for marginal gains — gains that could have been bigger if Magnus Cort had not sneaked over the line in front of Roglic, taking the last five-second bonus.

Was Roglic “playing silly buggers”, as Thomas suggested in Thursday’s stage? As the breakaway entered the final 20km, more than six minutes back Roglic changed to a time-trial bike. The strength he showed in the final metres was enough to add a frisson of excitement for today, seconds after viewers were primed to anoint Thomas as Giro champion.

The route from Longarone to the peaks of the Dolomites featured five successive climbs. As the heavens opened on the penultimate ascent to Passo Tre Croci, Thomas remained at the front of the peloton, sandwiched between his lieutenants, Laurens De Plus and Thymen Arensman. Behind them came a yellow train of Roglic and Jumbo-Visma, five-strong for a time but reduced to three with 12 kilometres to go.

In the final section, João Almeida took the general classification group on, Arensman’s work done. Thomas got on to the Portuguese’s wheel before Roglic attacked as the fans encroached on the road, a corridor of uncertainty down which Thomas followed, the two of them pulling clear for their home-straight battle. Almeida was next to the finish and is the only other rider in contention for the Pink Jersey, 59 seconds down on Thomas.

At the front of the race, Gee’s mouth was agape, a *Scream* mask of effort. All of ten metres behind him Buitrago pursued, legs aflame, and after being almost comically close at low speed for some time, in the final 2km the Colombian passed the Canadian. In his maiden Grand Tour, it was Gee’s fourth runner-up finish, to go with a pair of fourths.

“If I sit in the peloton there’s no chance I won, so I might have gotten second a lot but at least I gave myself a shot,” Gee said of his acts of near-miss derring-do.

Roglic knows how a penultimate-stage time-trial can shatter expectation. He led Tadej Pogacar by 57 seconds in the 2020 Tour de France, only for his fellow Slovenian to dominate the 20th stage and turn it into a 59-second deficit.

That ride to La Planche des Belles Filles was over 36.2km, twice as long as today’s will be from Tarvisio to Monte Lussari, but the final 7.3km is a staircase to heaven, a peak gradient of 22 per cent shaded in the deepest red. “It’s going to be exciting to watch, horrible to do,” Thomas said.

THE NEXT BIG THING

Callum Doyle

● Born October 3, 2003 in Manchester
● Came through Manchester City's academy
● Was on loan at Sunderland last season, helping them achieve promotion
● Played in the England U19 team that won the European Championship last summer
● Played 41 league games on loan for Coventry this season





JOHN MALLETT/PROSPORTS/SHUTTERSTOCK

89
First-team appearances (7,570 mins) by Doyle in the EFL for Sunderland and Coventry City in the past two seasons

Gregor Robertson

Of all the players who will appear in this afternoon's Sky Bet Championship play-off final at Wembley, Callum Doyle may well have the highest ceiling.

The Manchester City loanee has made 45 appearances in Coventry City's defence this season and, at only 19 years old, his composure on the ball and physicality mark him out as a player of rich promise.

Doyle, who will line up on the left of Coventry's back three today, joined the Premier League champions' academy in 2014 and, after two seasons of rapid development out on loan, was rewarded with a new four-year contract in January.

After winning the Under-18 Premier League and Premier League 2 titles with City, Doyle is now on the verge of securing back-to-back promotions after helping Sunderland climb out of League One via the play-offs this time last year.

Doyle's arrival at the Stadium of Light in July 2021 came three months before his 18th birthday, yet the 6ft 2in defender quickly established himself and made 44 appearances for Sunderland, before helping England Under-19 win the European Championship last summer — which included scoring a goal in the 3-1 win against Israel in the final.

Left-footed central defenders are highly coveted these days, of course, given the balance they provide in possession. One of Doyle's most impressive attributes is his ball carrying and, as well as his buccaneering runs, the Manchester-born defender's incisive passing has made him a key figure for Mark Robins' unlikely promotion hopefuls.

While he is yet to make a first-team appearance for City, there is a belief at the Etihad campus that Doyle — along with Taylor Harwood-Bellis, who flourished on loan at Burnley this season — may be ready to test himself in the Premier League next season, whatever the outcome today.

RESULTS AND SCOREBOARDS

Football

Scottish Premiership play-off
Semi-final, second leg

Ayr Utd (0) **0** **Partick** (2) **5**
McMillan 7
Tiffoney 27, 54
Lawless 63, Holt 88
Sent off: D Akinyemi (Ayr Utd) 25
(Partick Thistle win 8-0 on agg)

Cricket

Vitality Blast: North group
Leicestershire v Birmingham

Leicester (Leicestershire Foxes won toss): Birmingham Bears (2pts) beat Leicestershire Foxes by five wickets

Leicestershire Foxes (balls)
N R Welch b Woakes 30 (14)
S G Budinger c Lintott b Mousley 17 (17)
A M Lilley b Briggs 17 (17)
*C N Ackermann c Mousley b Briggs 27 (22)
P W A Mulder c Brookes b Briggs 8 (11)
R K Patel c Woakes b Miles 28 (21)
R Ahmed c and b Miles 16 (10)
†H J Swindells not out 15 (7)
C F Parkinson not out 0 (1)
Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 5) 8
Total (7 wkts, 20 overs) 166
N Shah and W S Davis did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-49, 2-49, 3-86, 4-99, 5-106, 6-144, 7-153.
Bowling Woakes 4-0-28-1; Brookes 2-0-29-0; Mousley 2-0-15-1; Briggs 4-0-15-3; Miles 3-0-36-2; Lintott 3-0-26-0; Maxwell 2-0-14-0.

Birmingham Bears (balls)
P R Stirling b Parkinson 5 (7)
*†A L Davies b Parkinson 16 (8)
S R Hain not out 65 (43)
G J Maxwell c Shah b Davis 47 (27)
D R Mousley c Mulder b Parkinson 16 (10)
C G Benjamin c Swindells b Parkinson 0 (3)
C R Woakes not out 8 (7)
Extras (lb 2, w 8) 10
Total (5 wkts, 17.3 overs) 167
D R Briggs, C N Miles, H J H Brookes and J B Lintott did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-22, 2-25, 3-115, 4-142, 5-142.
Bowling Shah 4-0-34-0; Ackermann 1-0-11-0; Parkinson 4-0-33-4; Davis 3.3-0-32-1; Mulder 1-0-18-0; Ahmed 4-0-37-0.

Northamptonshire v Durham

Northampton (Northamptonshire Steelbacks won toss): Durham (2pts) beat Northamptonshire Steelbacks by ten wickets

Northamptonshire Steelbacks (balls)
C A Lynn b De Leede 0 (3)
R S Vasconcelos c Robinson b Sowter 52 (41)
*D J Willey c Robinson b De Leede 1 (5)
J J Cobb c and b Sowter 17 (10)
S A Zaib c Clark b Raine 28 (28)
†L D McManus c De Leede b Trevaskis 10 (11)
T A I Taylor lbw b Sowter 2 (3)
R I Keogh lbw b Sowter 0 (2)
A J Tye c Robinson b Sowter 4 (6)
G G White c De Leede b Trevaskis 11 (10)
J J G Sales not out 5 (2)
Extras (lb 3, w 2, nb 2) 7
Total (20 overs) 137
Fall of wickets 1-0, 2-2, 3-36, 4-98, 5-106, 6-109, 7-109, 8-115, 9-130.
Bowling De Leede 4-1-27-2; Turner 2-0-4-0; Glover 3-0-28-0; Raine 4-0-32-1; Sowter 4-0-15-5; Trevaskis 3-0-28-2.

Durham (balls)
G Clark not out 102 (49)
*A Z Lees not out 37 (31)
Extras (w 2) 2
Total (no wkt, 13.2 overs) 141
M A Jones, †O G Robinson, A J Turner, B de Leede, L Doneathy, L Trevaskis, B A Raine, N A Sowter and B D Glover did not bat.
Bowling Willey 2-0-18-0; Cobb 2-0-32-0; Taylor 2-0-21-0; Tye 2-0-22-0; White 1-0-8-0; Sales 2-0-18-0; Zaib 2.2-0-22-0.

Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire

Trent Bridge (Derbyshire Falcons won toss): Notts Outlaws (2pts) beat Derbyshire Falcons by four wickets

Derbyshire Falcons (balls)
L M Reece c Hales b Montgomery 53 (35)
H Ali c Montgomery b McKerr 1 (4)
W L Madsen c Clarke b Mullaney 61 (31)
*J L du Plooy b Carter 9 (10)
A K Dal st Moores b Mullaney 7 (8)
†A H T Donald lbw b Afridi 13 (9)
Z J Chappell not out 11 (13)
M H McKiernan not out 16 (10)
Extras (b 1, lb 3, w 3) 7
Total (6 wkts, 20 overs) 178
M R J Watt, G L S Scrimshaw and Z Khan did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-6, 2-118, 3-123, 4-131, 5-142, 6-154.
Bowling Afridi 4-0-21-1; McKerr 4-0-34-1; Carter 4-0-30-1; Patel 3-0-32-0; Mullaney 3-0-37-2; James 1-0-15-0; Montgomery 1-0-5-1.

Notts Outlaws (balls)
J M Clarke lbw b Chappell 68 (29)
A D Hales c Khan b Chappell 12 (10)
C Munro c Scrimshaw b Khan 23 (15)
M Montgomery c Reece b Scrimshaw 51 (29)
†T J Moores c Khan b Scrimshaw 16 (15)
*S J Mullaney b Scrimshaw 0 (1)
L W James not out 1 (2)
S R Patel not out 4 (1)
Extras (lb 4, w 3) 7
Total (6 wkts, 17 overs) 182
S S Afridi, M Carter and C McKerr did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-58, 2-87, 3-147, 4-176, 5-176, 6-178.
Bowling Khan 4-0-30-1; Scrimshaw 4-0-52-3; Watt 2-0-40-0; Chappell 4-0-29-2; McKiernan 3-0-27-0.

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcester (Yorkshire Vikings won toss): Worcestershire Rapids (2pts) beat Yorkshire Vikings by two wickets

Yorkshire Vikings (balls)
A Lyth c Mir b Pennington 4 (6)
D J Malan c Cox b Pennington 0 (1)
*S M Khan c Brown b D'Oliveira 31 (25)
†J A Tattersall c Pennington b D'Oliveira 29 (20)
M L Revis run out 42 (31)
J A Thompson c Finch b Bracewell 36 (18)
D Wiese c Haynes b Brown 15 (9)
B W M Mike c Haynes b Brown 2 (3)
D M Bess not out 12 (4)
J A Chohan b Brown 2 (3)
Extras (w 2) 2
Total (9 wkts, 20 overs) 175
M D Fisher did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-1, 2-10, 3-57, 4-68, 5-124, 6-142, 7-144, 8-173, 9-175.
Bowling Pennington 2-0-11-2; Finch 4-0-45-0; Brown 3-0-28-3; Bracewell 4-0-28-1; Mir 4-0-24-0; D'Oliveira 3-0-39-2.

Worcestershire Rapids (balls)
M G Bracewell c Tattersall b Fisher 3 (8)
*B L D'Oliveira c Revis b Wiese 2 (4)
J A Haynes c Bess b Chohan 32 (24)
A J Hose c and b Thompson 44 (26)
K Ali c Malan b Thompson 24 (22)
†O B Cox c Thompson b Revis 26 (14)
E J Pollock b Wiese 1 (3)
U Mir c Thompson b Wiese 9 (8)
A W Finch not out 30 (10)
D Y Pennington not out 0 (0)
Extras (lb 1, w 5) 6
Total (8 wkts, 19.5 overs) 177
P R Brown did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-7, 2-8, 3-86, 4-98, 5-130, 6-131, 7-145, 8-157.
Bowling Fisher 3.5-0-45-1; Wiese 4-0-18-3; Revis 4-0-36-1; Thompson 4-0-40-2; Chohan 3-0-26-1; Mike 1-0-11-0.

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Lancashire	2	2	0	0	0	**4**	2.39
Birmingham	2	2	0	0	0	**4**	1.70
Worcestershire	2	2	0	0	0	**4**	0.46
Durham	1	1	0	0	0	**2**	3.72
Notts	1	1	0	0	0	**2**	1.81
Yorkshire	2	0	2	0	0	**0**	-0.94
Derbyshire	2	0	2	0	0	**0**	-1.12
Northants	2	0	2	0	0	**0**	-2.16
Leicestershire	2	0	2	0	0	**0**	-4.18

South group
Gloucestershire v Glamorgan

Bristol (Glamorgan won toss): Glamorgan (2pts) beat Gloucestershire by two wickets

Gloucestershire (balls)
†G Roelofsen c Cooke b Van der Gugten 7 (7)
C D J Dent c Ingram b McIlroy 11 (7)
M A H Hammond lbw b McIlroy 0 (1)
O J Price c Carlson b McIlroy 37 (31)
*J M R Taylor c Northeast b Douthwaite 16 (13)
B G Charlesworth c and b Douthwaite 56 (39)
G L van Buuren not out 32 (19)
Z G Khan c Smith b Douthwaite 0 (2)
M D Taylor c sub b Douthwaite 0 (1)
D A Payne run out 0 (0)
Extras (lb 1, w 1) 2
Total (9 wkts, 20 overs) 161
T M J Smith did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-18, 2-18, 3-18, 4-49, 5-101, 6-149, 7-149, 8-149, 9-161.
Bowling Van der Gugten 4-1-39-1; McIlroy 4-0-30-3; Smith 4-0-30-0; Douthwaite 4-0-23-4; Sisodiya 3-0-31-0; Kellaway 1-0-7-0.

Glamorgan (balls)
E J Byrom c Van Buuren b M D Taylor 11 (6)
S A Northeast c M D Taylor b Payne 3 (6)
*K S Carlson c Khan b Payne 35 (20)
C A Ingram c Charlesworth b Price 47 (33)
†C B Cooke c and b Price 25 (19)
B I Kellaway b Payne 3 (6)
D A Douthwaite c Dent b M D Taylor 4 (7)
T van der Gugten not out 21 (12)
P Sisodiya b Khan 2 (5)
R A J Smith not out 6 (2)
Extras (lb 1, w 2, nb 2) 5
Total (8 wkts, 19.1 overs) 162
J P McIlroy did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-13, 2-17, 3-86, 4-121, 5-126, 6-129, 7-137, 8-149.
Bowling Payne 4-0-17-3; M D Taylor 4-0-21-2; Charlesworth 2-0-32-0; Price 3-0-23-2; Smith 3.1-0-37-0; Khan 3-0-31-1.

Hampshire v Middlesex

Ageas Bowl (Hampshire Hawks won toss): Hampshire Hawks (2pts) beat Middlesex by eight wickets

Middlesex (balls)
*S S Eskinazi b Crane 31 (18)
J B Cracknell lbw b Ellis 6 (9)
P J Malan c Vince b Fuller 80 (45)
M D E Holden c Fuller b Crane 6 (4)
R F Higgins c and b Wood 27 (22)
L B K Hollman c McDermott b Ellis 7 (8)
†J A Simpson c Prest b Fuller 2 (4)
M K Andersson c Prest b Wood 5 (7)
N Fernandes run out 0 (2)
T G Helm run out 0 (1)
B C Cullen not out 0 (0)
Extras (lb 2, w 3, nb 2) 7
Total (19.5 overs) 171
Fall of wickets 1-23, 2-66, 3-74, 4-142, 5-161, 6-165, 7-167, 8-170, 9-171.
Bowling Wood 3.5-0-29-2; Dawson 4-0-32-0; Ellis 4-0-24-2; Fuller 3-0-35-2; Crane 4-0-36-2; Whiteley 1-0-13-0.

Hampshire Hawks (balls)
†B R McDermott c Hollman b Fernandes 39 (29)
*J M Vince not out 88 (55)
T J Prest b Hollman 30 (17)
J J Weatherley not out 6 (8)
Extras (lb 2, w 3, nb 4) 9
Total (2 wkts, 17.5 overs) 172
T E Albert, R A Whiteley, J K Fuller, L A Dawson, N T Ellis, C P Wood and M S Crane did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-91, 2-149.
Bowling Helm 4-0-40-0; Cullen 3-0-25-0; Andersson 2-0-24-0; Higgins 3-0-30-0; Hollman 3.5-0-36-1; Fernandes 2-0-15-1.

Surrey v Kent

Kia Oval (Kent Spitfires won toss): Surrey (2pts) beat Kent Spitfires 41 runs

Surrey (balls)
W G Jacks c Hogan b Linde 17 (11)
L J Evans c Leaning b Richardson 11 (8)
*S M Curran c Evison b Stewart 15 (16)
T K Curran run out 16 (14)
†J L Smith c Leaning b Hogan 17 (13)
S A Abbott not out 110 (40)
J Clark not out 29 (17)
Extras (lb 4, w 4) 8
Total (5 wkts, 20 overs) 223
S P Narine, J Overton, A A P Atkinson and T E Lawes did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-22, 2-30, 3-60, 4-64, 5-94.
Bowling Denly 2-0-21-0; Hogan 4-0-45-1; Linde 3.5-0-50-1; Richardson 4-0-53-1; Leaning 1-0-9-0; Stewart 4-0-29-1; Evison 1-0-12-0.

Kent Spitfires (balls)
T S Muyeye c Abbott b Jacks 59 (37)
D J Bell-Drummond c Lawes b Narine 52 (27)
J L Denly c Overton b S M Curran 22 (15)
G F Linde c Evans b Jacks 0 (2)
J M Cox c S M Curran b Lawes 10 (7)
*†S W Billings c Jacks b Lawes 5 (3)
J A Leaning c Jacks b Narine 5 (5)
J D M Evison not out 5 (12)
G Stewart not out 19 (12)
Extras (b 1, lb 3, w 1) 5
Total (7 wkts, 20 overs) 182
K W Richardson and M G Hogan did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-108, 2-135, 3-136, 4-137, 5-142, 6-147, 7-157.
Bowling Curran 4-0-29-1; Atkinson 4-0-41-0; Abbott 3-0-38-0; Narine 4-0-28-2; Lawes 4-0-35-2; Jacks 1-0-7-2.

Sussex v Somerset

Hove (Somerset won toss): Somerset (2pts) beat Sussex Sharks by five wickets

Sussex Sharks (balls)
T G R Clark c Gregory b Overton 8 (5)
A G H Orr c and b Gregory 33 (18)
T P Alsop c Van der Merwe b Overton 9 (6)
*R S Bopara not out 88 (49)
S Khan c Gregory b Van der Merwe 9 (8)
†M G K Burgess c Overton b Henry 17 (23)
G H S Garton c Abell b Henry 0 (1)
N J McAndrew c Gregory b Siddle 8 (5)
J M Coles c Van der Merwe b Henry 4 (5)
F J Hudson-Prentice not out 1 (1)
Extras (w 4, nb 2) 6
Total (8 wkts, 20 overs) 183
T S Mills did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-9, 2-25, 3-69, 4-84, 5-141, 6-141, 7-161, 8-166.
Bowling Overton 3-0-33-2; Henry 4-0-50-3; Siddle 4-0-41-1; Gregory 2-0-12-1; Van der Merwe 4-0-15-1; Green 3-0-32-0.

Somerset (balls)
†T Banton c Orr b Mills 32 (15)
W C F Smeed c Clark b Garton 10 (11)
T Kohler-Cadmore c Coles b Mills 72 (42)
T B Abell run out 42 (34)
T A Lammonby c Coles b Mills 1 (7)
*L Gregory not out 6 (6)
B G F Green not out 5 (2)
Extras (lb 4, w 12) 16
Total (5 wkts, 19.3 overs) 184
R E Van der Merwe, C Overton, M J Henry and P M Siddle did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-19, 2-58, 3-162, 4-167, 5-178.
Bowling Garton 3-0-26-1; Mills 4-0-28-3; Hudson-Prentice 2.3-0-51-0; McAndrew 4-0-30-0; Bopara 3-0-20-0; Coles 3-0-25-0.

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Surrey	2	2	0	0	0	**4**	2.85
Somerset	2	2	0	0	0	**4**	2.51
Kent	2	1	1	0	0	**2**	0.50
Glamorgan	1	1	0	0	0	**2**	0.40
Hampshire	2	1	1	0	0	**2**	-1.84
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0
Sussex	1	0	1	0	0	**0**	-0.29
Gloucs	2	0	2	0	0	**0**	-1.66
Middlesex	2	0	2	0	0	**0**	-2.38

Tour match: Essex v Ireland

Chelmsford (first day of three; Ireland won toss): Ireland, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 305 runs behind Essex

Essex First Innings
*N L J Browne c Tucker b Mayes 11
J S Rymell lbw b Young 21
R J Das b McBrine 132
C Campher lbw b Mayes 16
G H Dockrell c Balbirnie b Hume 74
M R Adair c Hand b Mayes 62
†W E L Buttleman c Tector b Hand 1
N R M Thain b Hand 3
J A Richards not out 17
M T Foster lbw b McBrine 1
E S Kalley c Tucker b Mayes 0
Extras (lb 4, nb 1) 5
Total (71.5 overs) 343
Fall of wickets 1-29, 2-48, 3-100, 4-224, 5-282, 6-291, 7-311, 8-341, 9-342.
Bowling Hume 13-5-44-1; Young 14-2-61-1; Hand 16-3-50-2; Mayes 12.5-0-68-4; McBrine 14-1-98-2; Tector 2-0-18-0.

Ireland First Innings
J A McCollum c Browne b Richards 6
P J Moor not out 20
*A Balbirnie c Dockrell b Richards 0
G I Hume not out 9
Extras (lb 2, nb 1) 3
Total (2 wkts, 16 overs) 38
H T Tector, P R Stirling, †L Tucker, A R McBrine, F Hand, C A Young and T Mayes to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-26, 2-28.
Bowling Adair 5-2-11-0; Richards 6-3-18-2; Kalley 3-1-6-0; Campher 2-1-1-0.
Umpires R A White and R Black.

Charlotte Edwards Cup

Leicester The Blaze 212-5 (20 overs: N R Sciver-Brunt 96 not out); Central Sparks 156-6 (20 overs: A E Jones 55). ***The Blaze (5pts) won by 56 runs;*** Western Storm 105-8 (20 overs); Southern Vipers 107-3 (14.1 overs). ***Vipers (4pts) won by seven wickets***. **Kia Oval** South East Stars 138-7 (20 overs: A R Capsey 71); Northern Diamonds 140-8 (20 overs: H J Armitage 82). ***Diamonds (4pts) won by two wickets.***

Indian Premier League

Ahmedabad Gujarat Titans 233-3 (20 overs: S Gill 129); Mumbai Indians 171 (18.2 overs: S A Yadav 61; M M Sharma 5 for 10). ***Titans (2pts) won by 62 runs***.

Cycling

Giro d'Italia

Leading positions: 19th stage (Longarone to Tre Cime di Lavaredo, 183km): 1, S Buitrago (Col, Bahrain Victorious) 5:28:07; 2, D Gee (Can, Israel-Premier Tech) at 51sec behind; 3, M Cort (Den, EF Education-EasyPost) 1:46; 4, P Roglic (Slove, Jumbo-Visma) same time; 5, G Thomas (GB, INEOS Grenadiers) 1:49. **Overall** 1, Thomas 81:55:47; 2, Roglic 26; 3, J Almeida (Por, UAE Team Emirates) 59; 4, D Caruso (It, Bahrain Victorious) 4:11; 5, E Dunbar (Ire, Jayco-AlUla) 4:53.

Golf

US PGA Tour Charles Schwab Challenge

Fort Worth, Texas: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): **62** H Hall (Eng). **65** H English. **66** T Hoge, A Putnam, A Schenk, R Shelton. **67** An Byeong-hun (S Kor), S Burns, R Fox (NZ), D Frittelli (SA), B Griffin, E Grillo (Arg), M Homa, B Horschel, M Kim, Kim Si-woo (S Kor), Lee Min-woo (Aus), D Lipsky, C Reavie, S Scheffler, A Smotherman.

DP World Tour KLM Dutch Open

Cromvoirt: Leaders after two rounds: 134 J Campillo (Sp) 63, 71. **136** R Paratore (It) 68, 68. **137** D Hillier (NZ) 70, 67. **138** A Otaegui (Sp) 67, 71; M Armitage (Eng) 68, 70; M Kinhult (Swe) 68, 70; A Del Rey (Sp) 67, 71.

Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play

Las Vegas: Early third-round scores (United States unless stated): E Henseleit (Ger) bt J Boonchant (Thai) 2 holes; Min Lee (S Kor) bt S Schmelzel 4 and 3; J Kupcho tied with A Ashok (India); P Delacour (Fr) bt C Inglis 3 and 2; L Maguire (Ire) bt N An (S Kor) 5 and 3.

Women's European Tour Mithra Belgian Open

Wanze: Leading first-round scores: 66 A Magnusson (Swe). **68** M Stavnar (Nor), Y Onishi (Japan), V Knecht (Switz), M Prat (Sp). **69** M de Roey (Bel), O Cowan (Ger), V Carta (It), C Gainer (Eng), R Davies (Eng), C Noja (Ger), A van Dam (Neth), M Hernández (Sp), N Komulainen (Fin), S Bregman (SA).

Rugby league

Betfred Super League Catalans Dragons 36 Wakefield 6; Huddersfield 20 Castleford 4; Leeds 12 St Helens 13; Leigh 30 Warrington 12. **Women** Leeds 18 St Helens 38.

Tennis

ATP Open Parc Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

Lyon: Semi-finals F Cerúndolo (Arg) bt C Norrie (GB) 6-3, 6-0; A Fils (Fr) bt B Nakashima (US) 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5).

ATP Gonet Geneva Open

Semi-finals G Dimitrov (Bul) bt T Fritz (US) 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7-2); N Jarry (Chile) bt A Zverev (Ger) 7-6 (7-3), 6-3.

WTA Strasbourg International

Semi-finals A Blinkova bt L Davis (US) 6-2, 6-2; E Svitolina (Ukr) bt C Burel (Fr) 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

WTA Grand Prix Son Altesse Royale La Princesse Lalla Meryem

Rabat: Semi-finals J Grabher (Austria) bt J Riera (Arg) 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (8-6); L Bronzetti (It) bt S Stephens (US) 6-1, 6-1.

FIXTURES

Today

Football

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Sky Bet Championship play-off final Coventry v Luton (4.45, at Wembley Stadium).

Women's Super League Arsenal v Aston Villa; Brighton v Leicester; Liverpool v Manchester Utd; Manchester City v Everton; Reading v Chelsea; West Ham v Tottenham.

Cinch Scottish Premiership (12.30): Celtic v Aberdeen; Hearts v Hibernian; St Mirren v Rangers.

Cricket

Tour match: Chelmsford: Second day of three Essex v Ireland.

Vitality Blast: North group: Emirates Old Trafford Lancashire Lightning v Notts Outlaws (6.30).

Charlotte Edwards Cup: Emirates Old Trafford Thunder v Sunrisers (2.30).

Rugby league

Betfred Championship Featherstone Lions v York City Knights (7.30); London Broncos v Toulouse (5.15); Whitehaven v Barrow Lions (3.0); Widnes Vikings v Swinton Lions (12.45).

Rugby union

Gallagher Premiership final Saracens v Sale Sharks (3.0, Twickenham).

United Rugby Championship final Stormers v Munster (5.30).

Women's Allianz Premier 15s Exeter Chiefs v Wasps (1.0); Loughborough Lightning v Worcester Warriors (2.0); Sale Sharks v Gloucester-Hartpury (2.0).

Tomorrow

Football

Kick-off 4.30 unless stated

Premier League Arsenal v Wolverhampton; Aston Villa v Brighton; Brentford v Manchester City; Chelsea v Newcastle; Crystal Palace v Nottingham Forest; Everton v Bournemouth; Leeds v Tottenham; Leicester v West Ham; Manchester Utd v Fulham; Southampton v Liverpool.

Sky Bet League Two play-off final Stockport County v Carlisle (1.30, at Wembley Stadium).

Cinch Premiership (3.0): Kilmarnock v Ross County; Motherwell v Dundee Utd; St Johnstone v Livingston.

Cricket

Tour match: Chelmsford: Final day of three Essex v Ireland.

Vitality Blast: North group: Headingley Yorkshire Vikings v Durham (11.30). **South group: Taunton** Somerset v Glamorgan (6.30). **Kia Oval** Surrey v Sussex Sharks (2.30).

Charlotte Edwards Cup: Taunton Western Storm v South East Stars (2.30). **Headingley** Northern Diamonds v Sunrisers (3.30).

Rugby league

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Betfred Super League Salford v Hull.

Betfred Championship Bradford Bulls v Keighley Cougars (6.15); Halifax v Batley Bulldogs (4.0); Newcastle Thunder v Sheffield Eagles (1.45). **League One** Cornwall v North Wales Crusaders (1.0); Dewsbury Rams v London Skolars; Hunslet v Rochdale Hornets (1.0); Midlands Hurricanes v Oldham.

Women's Super League Huddersfield Giants v Wigan Warriors (2.0); York Valkyrie v Warrington Wolves (11.30); Barrow Raiders v Bradford Bulls (2.0); Featherstone Rovers v Castleford Tigers (midday); Salford Red Devils v Leigh Leopards (midday).

Rugby union

Women's Allianz Premier 15s Harlequins v DMP Sharks (1.0); Saracens v Bristol (2.30).

Why Alcaraz is 'a breath of fresh air'

Stuart Fraser
Tennis Correspondent

Sitting in the opposing coaching box to Carlos Alcaraz in Madrid last month, even Jamie Delgado could not help admiring what the 20-year-old Spaniard was conjuring on the court. The former coach of Andy Murray is now working with Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov, but found himself in appreciation of the player who defeated his charge in straight sets.

"He is the most exciting player to watch out of the younger generation," Delgado says. "His personality and vibe on the court is great to watch, and it is easy to endear to him because it looks like he's having so much fun. He's going to be a huge crowd favourite around the world for many years to come."

To be clear: Alcaraz is not the future, he is the present. Despite only turning 20 on May 5, he has spent a total of 23 weeks at world No 1, more than Mats Wilander (20), Andy Roddick (13) and Boris Becker (12). His US Open triumph last year is one of ten ATP tour titles under his belt.

As Alcaraz prepares in Paris for his first grand-slam tournament as a No 1 seed, there is already a noticeable aura around him. After years of patiently waiting for a successor to the "big three", tennis finally has its man.

"He's just such an unbelievable breath of fresh air," John McEnroe, the former world No 1 who is commentating for Eurosport at the French Open, said. "He's so electric with the way he plays and he's got such a great personality that people want him to win. He's 20 years old, but he just seems like such a great ambassador for our sport that you're sort of pulling for him."

Having sat in tennis stadiums across the world over the past year, I can attest that watching Alcaraz is right up there with witnessing the likes of Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer in person. Already, obtaining a ticket for one of his matches is becoming a bucket list item for many. If you get the chance this summer, do not pass it up.

It is his speed that is so striking close up. While an aggressive style of play is his default, he is equally as impressive in defence with the way he can track down seemingly unretrievable balls to hit seemingly impossible winners. The gasps do not only come from the stands but sometimes from across the net.

"It's not much fun playing but it's pretty impressive to watch," says Dan Evans, who lost 6-2, 6-2 to Alcaraz at last month's Barcelona Open. "He is an amazing tennis player. His variation is probably one of his biggest assets. He moves incredibly well, serves and volleys a bit. He's probably got every shot he needs and it's interesting to see how he uses them. It is pretty impressive."

JULIAN FINNEY/GETTY IMAGES



Alcaraz, as top seed and in Nadal's absence, is the French Open favourite

Fastest to the top

Carlos Alcaraz became the youngest world No 1 in ATP history when he won the US Open in September last year

Player	No1 on	Age
Carlos Alcaraz	Sep 2022	19 years, 129 days
Lleyton Hewitt	Nov 2001	20 years, 268 days
Marat Safin	Nov 2000	20 years, 298 days
John McEnroe	Mar 1980	21 years, 16 days
Andy Roddick	Nov 2003	21 years, 65 days
Bjorn Borg	Aug 1977	21 years, 78 days
Jim Courier	Feb 1992	21 years, 177 days
Pete Sampras	Apr 1993	21 years, 243 days
Jimmy Connors	Jul 1974	21 years, 330 days
Rafael Nadal	Aug 2008	22 years, 76 days

Taylor Fritz, the world No 9 from the United States, observed after a loss to Alcaraz at the Miami Open in March that he felt as if he had "more breathing room" in his matches against the "big three". This level of intensity is something that Delgado also noticed in Madrid.

"It is just so high all of the time," Delgado explains. "There have been a lot of players who sometimes play their way into the match a little bit. He doesn't really do that. He's cracking the ball and trying to make things happen right from the beginning. He was super aggressive. When things get a bit tight, he's never waiting for someone to lose the point. He just takes it into his own hands.

"In Spain as well, it was clear that he is a huge idol there. The stadium was packed out, it was electric. You could feel the expectancy on him to win and he dealt with that exceptionally well. He embraces it and it never seems to be getting on top of him."

Alcaraz's marketability is obvious. Guided by IMG, the same management company as Emma Raducanu, he signed a deal with Calvin Klein that saw him appear shirtless on a 50-foot billboard in New York this year. He can also command appearance fees of up to seven figures for merely turning up at regular events on the ATP tour.

The next step is to crack the consciousness of the wider British public, which as ever comes with a deep run at Wimbledon — his best performance so far is the fourth round last year. This partly explains why Alcaraz has signed up for the Cinch Championships at the Queen's Club as part of his preparations, giving us two opportunities to see him on British soil this summer.

"I think everyone saw last year how much he set the tennis world on fire and we were very pleased to get his commitment to the event so early," Chris Pollard, the LTA's director of events and digital, said.

"We are definitely seeing a generational change in the men's game, and this combined with a strong British contingent this year has contributed to us selling out faster than we have ever done before."

Should you find it difficult to attend, then watching on television is the next best thing. Before he arrives on our shores, his bid to take full advantage of Rafael Nadal's absence at the French Open over the next two weeks is sure to be enthralling viewing.

"When you call a match, you're hoping for a few things," Colin Fleming, the former British Davis Cup player turned television commentator, says.

"You want great tennis and plenty of drama. You're also hoping for a bit of charisma on the court, with a loud atmosphere and a lot of energy. An Alcaraz match gives you those things in abundance.

"He's a global star already. There's excitement from the moment he walks onto the court, and they're living and breathing every shot he plays. There's also a fair bit of drama still because he's young and he's learning, so his matches can be a little bit of a rollercoaster at times. It's a pleasure to call his matches."

Evans: Raducanu's success papered over cracks in GB ranks

Stuart Fraser

Dan Evans believes that Emma Raducanu's 2021 US Open triumph "papered over the cracks" in British tennis after all ten representatives from the UK failed to come through French Open qualifying this week.

The 33-year-old is one of only three British men's players in the main draw at Roland Garros this year, alongside Jack Draper and Cameron Norrie. There are no Britons in the women's singles for the first time at a grand-slam tournament since the 2009 US Open.

Evans has long had concerns about the tennis culture in Britain and was again forthright with his views. At a world ranking of No 24, he is better qualified than most to offer an explanation for the lack of depth in the elite game — there are no British women in the world's top 100, while the 21-year-old Draper is the only player aged under 24 in the top 350.

"They [the LTA] have been lucky that they had a grand-slam champion," Evans said. "She [Raducanu] is a very good tennis player but, men or women, the rankings don't lie.

"I don't want to sound like a broken record, but there's way further to go than just the top players. It's from the bottom up. We're in a massive habit of sending people to the American college circuit now. I don't think that massively helps.

"The grass season last year really helped paper over some cracks. There were some good results, but if you look at the players who did pretty good on the grass, who were wild cards, etcetera, the rankings don't lie. After the grass there will be a bit of soul-searching, I imagine, after their holidays."

Asked whether the opportunity to capitalise on Andy Murray's two Wimbledon singles titles, in 2013 and 2016, was missed, Evans replied: "It's so hard because winning Wimbledon is miles away from anybody's level who starts out playing tennis. But Argentina have got 13 men in the qualifying here. They have no money, they have nothing.

"We need to make people love tennis and get involved. But if you're putting five players on a pro scholarship programme [the LTA offers the highest level of support to Jodie Burrage, Harriet Dart, Sonay Kartal, Paul Jubb and Felix Gill], what hope does that give the others? It's just heartbreaking that a guy next door to you is getting £70,000 or something and you're better than him. But a guy with stats is telling you, 'No, no, he's better.' You can look who's been on a scholarship programme. It's hardly flourishing, is it?

"You've got to work hard. I know what it's like to not work hard and what you get from that and I know what it's like to work hard and get decent rewards. I have a fair idea of the answers and I would do it very differently to what's happening now, I think."

Evans clearly still bears a grudge against Simon Timson, the former LTA performance director, because of a conversation held soon after the player returned from his ban for cocaine use in 2018.

"He was the mastermind of it all," Evans said. "I couldn't give a shit about it. But you've got a guy [Timson] who sat next to me and told me, with all due respect to James Ward and Heather Watson, 'I put you three in the same bracket. You are close to finishing your career.' I said, 'Thanks, man.' And I seem to have done all right since then."

Norrie's defence of his Lyon Open title came to a tame end in the semi-finals with a 6-3, 6-0 defeat by Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo. The British No 1 has had an inconsistent European clay-court season with six wins in 11 matches and will hope for a quick improvement in Paris.

THE TAILENDER



Patrick Kidd

Fly-half fishing and other wild World Cup memories

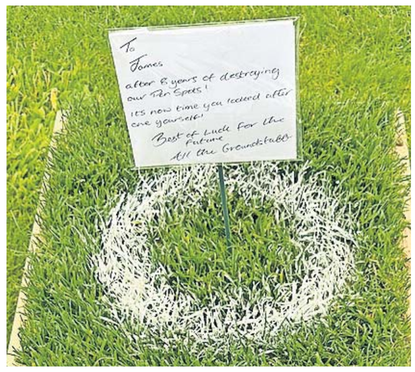
As the club rugby union season comes to an end today, attention will soon shift to the World Cup, which begins in September (on my birthday, as it happens) with a juicy match between France and New Zealand. They contested the first final, in 1987, and have had some great clashes, not least the quarter-final in 2007 when France went 13-0 down after 29 minutes before one of the great comebacks.

I've enjoyed rereading about that encounter, and others, in a new book entitled *The Times Rugby World Cup Moments*. Edited by David Hands, our former correspondent, it covers the men's and women's tournaments as told in these pages. There's even something I wrote about an unusual injury to Sophie Hemming, the England prop, before the 2010 World Cup. "She was sprinting in a field in the dark and ran into a cow," her coach said. "I imagine the cow came off worst."

The great moments are all there — Francois Pienaar and Nelson Mandela; Western Samoa beating Wales; Jonny Wilkinson dropping for World Cup glory — but it's the forgotten extraneous nuggets I most enjoyed, such as the South African Airways plane that was given air-traffic clearance to fly at 200ft above the Ellis Park Stadium for the final in 1995 with "Good luck Bokke" painted on the underside of its wings.

We learn that in 1999 Keith Wood, a hooker, scored four tries against the United States in a match in which the Ireland wings touched the ball four times between them; that 15,000 neutral fans in Tasmania were told to cheer for Romania or Namibia in 2003 depending on whether they were born on an odd or even day; that the small Yorkshire market town of Otley hosted a match in 1991; and that Stephen Donald, who kicked the winning goal for New Zealand in 2011, had been called up in a mid-tournament injury crisis while fishing for whitebait and hadn't answered the phone because he had deleted the head coach's number.

And then there was the 1999 final, held on the day that a referendum in Australia decided to keep the monarchy. When the Queen presented the trophy to John Eales after his side beat France, she congratulated him and said: "We have both beaten a republic on the same day." The response of Eales, a republican, was not recorded.



PIC OF THE WEEK
The Anfield ground staff gave James Milner a touching, if unusual, parting gift on leaving Liverpool: a piece of grass with the message: "After eight years of destroying our pen spots it's now time you look after one yourself." He promised to get his scissors out and tend his new turf.

In a league of her own

Tina Turner songs will be played before all National Rugby League matches this weekend as Australia remembers the singer who made its sport sexy.

Tennessee's answer to Eddie Waring was the surprising choice, being an American grandmother, to front an NRL advertising campaign in 1989. The first video was filmed at Fulham's Craven Cottage. Turner had been promised beefcake, but the players from Leeds and Hull didn't impress. "If these are the good-looking ones, I'd hate to see the ugly ones," she said, before giving them a huge hug and playing ball. The advertisement was a hit. Female fans grew by 70 per cent in a year and *The Best* became the league's anthem. Unlike Diana Ross, who flopped at the 1994 football World Cup, Turner was a natural. One suspects she could have slotted kicks over from the touchline if asked. In heels.

The winning Indy 500 type

The 107th Indianapolis 500 takes place tomorrow. It is also the 90th anniversary of one of the great newspaper gaffes, sent to me by Marcus Williams, when an editor on the World-Independent in Colorado, anxious to print breaking news of the race before his rivals, asked the Associated Press if it could send him the name of the winner even though it would be after its wire service had shut down.

AP duly sent a report on the first half of the race and before closing the wire promised to send a telegram with the victor. In shorthand this was transmitted as "WILL OVERHEAD WINNER OF INDIANAPOLIS 500". Alas, the editor misunderstood and assumed a driver called Will had won. His scoop duly appeared saying that Babe Stapp had been leading "but gave way to Overhead on the last half". It turned out there was a way, but no Will.

Haydock Park

Thunderer

1.15 Auld Toon Loon
1.50 Mountain Road
2.25 Bodorgan
3.00 Bradsell
3.30 Royal Aclaim
4.10 Due Date
4.45 Persuasion

Going: good to firm-good in places — **Racing TV**
Draw: 7f-1m, low numbers best

1.15 Betfred Supports Jack Berry House Florida Handicap (£6,542: 1m 4f) (7 runners) ITV4

1	(5)	54-342	**AULD TOON LOON** 11 (BF) D O'Meara 4-9-12	Jason Watson	79
2	(7)	50-653	**IN THE BREEZE** 26 (D) M Appleby 5-9-8	R Dawson	73
3	(1)	500330	**TIGER BEETLE** 35 (T) M Rimell 5-9-8	S M Levey	72
4	(3)	/02-04	**THUNDER AHEAD** 30 (P,D) A King 5-9-8	H Doyle	♦95
5	(4)	41/3-0	**C'MON KENNY** 35 I Williams 7-9-4	W Buick	4
6	(2)	2004-0	**SWIFT TUTTLE** 15 (H,T) Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 4-9-4	A Rawlinson	72
7	(6)	10-600	**PERIPETEIA** 31 (D) P Kirby 5-8-10	C Beasley	56

13-8 Auld Toon Loon, 4-1 In The Breeze, 11-2 C'mon Kenny, 7-1 Tiger Beetle, 8-1 Thunder Ahead, 10-1 Peripeteia, Swift Tuttle.

Thunderer's choice: Auld Toon Loon upped his game when a close second on his handicap bow at Wetherby and can go one better **Danger:** In The Breeze

1.50 Betfred TV Hell Nook Handicap (£27,000: 2m) (7) ITV4

1	(7)	5340-0	**RESHOUN** 15 (P,C,D) P Morris 9-9-13	C Rodriguez	♦104
2	(2)	513406	**SOLENT GATEWAY** 20 (P,T,D) H Palmer 5-9-5	N Callan	88
3	(5)	0010-0	**THEMAXWECAN** 49 (P,D) Charlie Johnston 7-9-5	C Beasley	95
4	(4)	53-004	**LAW OF THE SEA** 15 (T) I Williams 5-9-3	W Buick	91
5	(6)	-32111	**CARZOLA** 21 (B,D) R Beckett 4-9-2	L Dettori	91
6	(3)	1-1220	**FIRSTMAN** 20 (T,D) A J Martin (Ire) 6-9-0	P A Harnett (5)	72
7	(1)	42211-	**MOUNTAIN ROAD** 198 (H,D) D M Simcock 4-8-11	S M Levey	85

13-8 Carzola, 11-4 Law Of The Sea, 6-1 Firstman, 7-1 Themaxwecan, 8-1 Mountain Road, 10-1 Solent Gateway, 25-1 Reshoun.

Thunderer's choice: Mountain Road progressed when upped in trip at the end of last year and can keep up the good work **Dangers:** Carzola, Law Of The Sea

2.25 Betfred Silver Bowl Handicap (Heritage Handicap) (3-Y-O: £51,540: 1m) (11) ITV4

1	(8)	5-4336	**KILLYBEGS WARRIOR** 9 Charlie Johnston 9-9	C Beasley	102
2	(7)	210-56	**STORMBUSTER** 16 (D) A Balding 9-4	C Hutchinson (3)	95
3	(3)	100-13	**SCHOLARSHIP** 15 (P,C) C Cox 8-13	C Lee	♦103
4	(6)	324-11	**JAMES MCHENRY** 14 (CD) E Bethell 8-12	C Rodriguez	91
5	(4)	211	**COVEY** 25 J & T Gosden 8-11	L Dettori	71
6	(1)	115-03	**METAL MERCHANT** 20 (D) Jack Channon 8-11	R Whelan	89
7	(2)	-13121	**GINCIDENT** 27 (D) R Fahey 8-10	N Callan	79
8	(5)	0-21	**ROYAL CAPE** 26 (D) H Morrison 8-9	W Buick	77
9	(11)	140-	**DEFENCE OF FORT** 217 P Chapple-Hyam 8-9	Jason Watson	82
10	(10)	031-	**BODORGAN** 211 C Hills 8-8	H Doyle	89
11	(9)	53-102	**JUST BRING IT** 7 (D) C Cox 8-7	M Ghiani	85

11-4 Covey, 6-1 Gincident, 13-2 Royal Cape, Defence Of Fort, 15-2 James Mchenry, 10-1 Just Bring It, Killybegs Warrior, Bodorgan.

Thunderer's choice: Bodorgan's form in the autumn stands close inspection and he gets the nod in a race with plenty of depth **Dangers:** Just Bring It, Covey

3.00 Betfred Nifty Fifty Sandy Lane Stakes (Group 2: 3-Y-O: £70,888: 6f) (8) ITV4

1	(8)	1-1110	**AL DASIM** 63 (D) G Boughey 9-2	W Buick	89
2	(4)	114-3	**BRADSELL** 24 (BF,D) A Watson 9-2	H Doyle	103
3	(3)	2311-1	**COLD CASE** 24 (D) K R Burke 9-2	C Lee	♦108
4	(7)	1111-0	**LITTLE BIG BEAR** 21 (D) A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-2	L Dettori	108
5	(6)	124-	**MILL STREAM** 283 (D) J Chapple-Hyam 9-2	M Ghiani	98
6	(5)	-15231	**SHOULDVEBEENARING** 22 (D) R Hannon 9-2	S M Levey	102
7	(2)	1315-0	**THE RIDLER** 35 R Fahey 9-2	N Callan	--
8	(1)	231-23	**MATILDA PICOTTE** 20 (P,D) K Cotter (Ire) 8-13	R Whelan	108

13-8 Little Big Bear, 100-30 Bradsell, 5-1 Cold Case, 15-2 Al Dasim, 8-1 Matilda Picotte, 14-1 Shouldvebeenaring, Mill Stream, 33-1 The Ridler.

Thunderer's choice: Bradsell flashed all his speed on his return at Ascot and, sharper here, can turn the tables on Cold Case **Danger:** Little Big Bear

3.30 Betfred Temple Stakes (Group 2: £70,888: 5f) (14) ITV4

1	(8)	34-450	**ACKLAM EXPRESS** 84 (D) N Tinkler 5-9-6	R Whelan	91
2	(9)	-11134	**ANNAF** 10 (D) M Appleby 4-9-6	Jason Watson	108
3	(1)	0213-0	**EQUALITY** 21 (H,CD) C Hills 5-9-6	P Hanagan	105
4	(13)	00-004	**EQUILATERAL** 84 (D) C Hills 8-9-6	L Dettori	84
5	(11)	4006-0	**EXISTENT** 21 (T,D) S C Williams 5-9-6	M Ghiani	98
6	(14)	06-112	**LIVE IN THE DREAM** 21 (D) A West 4-9-6	S B Kirrane	109
7	(3)	12010-	**MITBAAHY** 237 (D) R Varian 4-9-6	R Dawson	109
8	(4)	00-504	**RAASEL** 21 (CD) M Appleby 6-9-6	A Rawlinson	105
9	(6)	1522-0	**TWILIGHT CALLS** 21 (BF,D) H Candy 5-9-6	C Beasley	95
10	(2)	50-461	**HAPPY ROMANCE** 36 (D) R Hannon 5-9-3	S M Levey	106
11	(5)	/1163-	**ROYAL ACLAIM** 258 (BF,D) J Tate 4-9-3	N Callan	98
12	(12)	1135-0	**SANDBECK** 21 (P,CD) E Bethell 4-9-3	C Rodriguez	96
13	(7)	12210-	**THE PLATINUM QUEEN** 204 (D) R Varian 3-9-0	H Doyle	♦111
14	(10)	1152-	**DRAMATISED** 204 (D) K R Burke 3-8-9	W Buick	99

100-30 The Platinum Queen, 9-2 Dramatised, 5-1 Twilight Calls, 6-1 Royal Aclaim, 8-1 Live In The Dream, 12-1 Happy Romance, Raasel, Mitbaahy.

Thunderer's choice: Royal Aclaim has unfinished business in the sprint division and his record when fresh is encouraging **Danger:** Dramatised

4.10 Betfred Double Delight Edge Green Handicap (3-Y-O: £6,542: 6f) (12)

1	(11)	0-1	**INDIAN FALCON** 46 (D) R Fahey 9-11	C Hutchinson (3)	77
2	(7)	010-	**PREMIERE BEAUTY** 211 (D) S C Williams 9-10	S M Levey	76
3	(9)	421	**WILLIAM DEWHIRST** 16 (D) B Haslam 9-10	P Hanagan	77
4	(1)	031-6	**DE BRUYNE** 23 (D) E Walker 9-9	H Doyle	61
5	(12)	2105-0	**SPIRIT OF APPLAUSE** 28 (D) T Easterby 9-9	S B Kirrane (3)	78
6	(4)	01-3	**HERAKLES** 26 B Smart 9-9	R Dawson	69
7	(6)	0124-	**SECRET MISTRAL** 323 (CD) A Carroll 9-8	N Callan	--
8	(5)	15-406	**ETERNAL CLASS** 2 K R Burke 9-8	L Dettori	49
9	(3)	0-542	**DUE DATE** 12 C Cox 9-4	C Lee	92
10	(2)	226-0	**MACHO MANIA** 17 (B) H Palmer 9-4	M Ghiani	♦94
11	(10)	032-4	**BIG R** 23 E J-Houghton 9-3	W Buick	65
12	(8)	2106-0	**DUNNINGTON LAD** 48 P Winks 9-2	Mark Winn (5)	90

4-1 William Dewhirst, 9-2 Indian Falcon, 5-1 Due Date, 6-1 Premiere Beauty, 7-1 De Bruyne, 8-1 Big R, 12-1 Herakles, 14-1 Secret Mistral, Spirit Of Applause, Eternal Class.

Thunderer's choice: Due Date is not as good as his brother, Diligent Harry, but improved again when touched off at Wolverhampton **Danger:** Big R

4.45 Betfred Hattrick Heaven New Boston Handicap (£16,200: 7f) (9)

1	(5)	440-00	**TUSCAN** 21 (P,D) D O'Meara 4-9-9	Jason Watson	♦92
2	(9)	13000-	**ROYAL PLEASURE** 226 (W,H,T,D) Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 5-9-9	A Rawlinson	92
3	(1)	5010-0	**FFION** 15 (D) D Loughnane 6-9-7	C Lee	89
4	(7)	11150-	**ZAINALARAB** 245 (BF,D) R Varian 4-9-6	R Dawson	90
5	(6)	02-033	**PERSUASION** 7 (CD) D & N Barron 6-9-6	W Buick	87
6	(8)	251022	**GORAK** 17 (P,D) C Fellowes 4-9-2	N Callan	83
7	(3)	-04266	**ALEXANDER JAMES** 28 (P,T) M Appleby 7-9-1	H Doyle	43
8	(2)	616-00	**EQUIANO SPRINGS** 21 (D) T Tate 9-9-1	C Beasley	85
9	(4)	6400-0	**ROMAN DRAGON** 17 H Palmer 4-9-1	L Dettori	84

3-1 Gorak, 4-1 Zainalarab, 9-2 Persuasion, 8-1 Ffion, Roman Dragon, 10-1 Tuscan, Equiano Springs, 12-1 Royal Pleasure, Alexander James.

Thunderer's choice: Persuasion has run well at Newmarket on his past two starts and should again make his presence felt **Dangers:** Zainalarab, Gorak

Blinkered first time: Cartmel 1.40 Cuzco Du Mathan. **Haydock Park** 4.10 Macho Mania. **Salisbury** 8.10 Quizlet

Goodwood

Thunderer

1.30 Franceso Clemente
2.05 Yacowlef
2.35 Indispensable
3.10 Courage Mon Ami
3.45 Magical Story
4.20 Haseefah
4.55 Pure Angel (nap)

Going: good-good to firm in places — **Racing TV**
Draw: 5f-6f, low numbers best

1.30 Stakes (Listed) (£34,026: 1m 2f) (7) ITV4

1	(1)	25-20	**EL DRAMA** 63 (D) R Varian 5-9-3	J Mitchell
2	(4)	1322-	**EPIC POET** 195 (D) M Meade 4-9-3	T Marquand
3	(5)	111-	**FRANCESCO CLEMENTE** 308 (D) J & T Gosden 4-9-3	R Havlin
4	(6)	30-65	**IMPERIAL FIGHTER** 22 (C) A Balding 4-9-3	H Turner
5	(7)	2540-	**JACK DARCY** 178 (D) P & O Cole 4-9-3	C Fallon
6	(2)	21-11	**KING OF CONQUEST** 21 C Appleby 4-9-3	James Doyle
7	(3)	310-3	**PHANTOM FLIGHT** 56 (D) James Horton 4-9-3	P J McDonald

13-8 Francesco Clemente, 4-1 Phantom Flight, 5-1 King Of Conquest, 11-2 El Drama, 15-2 Epic Poet, 12-1 Jack Darcy, 16-1 Imperial Fighter.

Thunderer's choice: Franceso Clemente is exciting and can pick up from where he left off **Danger:** King Of Conquest

2.05 Handicap (3-Y-O: £38,655: 7f) (13) ITV4

1	(13)	13-44	**ANCESTRAL LAND** 22 C Cox 9-9	R Kingscote
2	(5)	3125-	**BRESSON** 217 J & T Gosden 9-5	R Havlin
3	(8)	60-26	**HECTIC** 20 R Hannon 9-4	Alec Voikhansky (5)
4	(7)	14-21	**YACOWLEF** 21 (C,D) P & O Cole 9-4	T Marquand
5	(11)	-0421	**DARK THIRTY** 10 (D) R Hannon 9-4	James Doyle
6	(10)	213-0	**CLASSIC** 35 (D) R Hannon 9-3	P Dobbs
7	(4)	012-0	**FULLY WET** 35 (C,D) J & T Gosden 9-3	P J McDonald
8	(1)	2146-	**SEEKING GOLD** 231 (D) Tom Clover 9-2	J Mitchell
9	(12)	411-0	**DIONYSIAN** 38 S C Williams 8-13	C Fallon
10	(3)	11-23	**URBAN SPRAWL** 16 (D) Charlie Johnston 8-11	J Fanning
11	(2)	631-3	**TAFREEJ** 36 (BF) W Haggas 8-10	D O'Neill
12	(6)	10-44	**PRAIRIE FALCON** 27 (CD) M Dods 8-5	H Turner
13	(9)	21426	**SATURNALIA** 22 (D) R Hughes 8-3	G Rooke

100-30 Tafreej, 9-2 Bresson, 6-1 Yacowlef, Dark Thirty, 10-1 Urban Sprawl, Seeking Gold, Prairie Falcon, 14-1 Classic, Ancestral Land.

Thunderer's choice: Yacowlef is up 6lb for his Newmarket win but can prove equal to the task **Danger:** Tafreej

2.35 Fillies' Stakes (2-Y-O: £7,851: 6f) (10)

1	(8)		**ELEFTHERIA** P & O Cole 9-2	J Mitchell
2	(9)	2	**EXPONISTA** 18 D Loughnane 9-2	James Doyle
3	(3)		**HELLFIRE BAY** J & T Gosden 9-2	C Fallon
4	(7)	3	**INDISPENSABLE** 22 W Haggas 9-2	T Marquand
5	(2)	3	**LA GUARIDA** 7 R Hannon 9-2	P Dobbs
6	(6)		**LINE SHEET** R Beckett 9-2	H Crouch
7	(10)		**LOOBY** C Hills 9-2	R Kingscote
8	(5)		**MAGIC LIGHT** R Hannon 9-2	Doubtful
9	(4)		**NEVERSTOPDREAMING** James Horton 9-2	P J McDonald
10	(1)		**UNFORGETTABLE FIRE** B Meehan 9-2	R Havlin

9-4 Indispensable, 5-2 La Guarida, 9-2 Hellfire Bay, 6-1 Exponista, 14-1 Looby, 16-1 Eleftheria, Line Sheet, 20-1 Unforgettable Fire, Neverstopdreaming.

3.10 Handicap (£15,702: 1m 6f) (8)

1	(6)	51365	**GLOBAL HEAT** 84 (V,D) S bin Suroor 7-9-9	C Fallon
2	(1)	11-	**COURAGE MON AMI** 215 J & T Gosden 4-9-3	R Havlin
3	(8)	6-000	**TIDES OF WAR** 84 (H) D M Simcock 5-9-0	D O'Neill
4	(2)	0351-	**SELWAN** 220 A King 4-9-0	James Doyle
5	(5)	-2013	**SIR RUMI** 14 (BF) R Hannon 5-8-13	P Dobbs
6	(3)	140-5	**NATHANAEL GREENE** 14 (D) W Haggas 4-8-8	T Marquand
7	(7)	24-60	**TRAILA** 127 D M Simcock 5-8-7	H Turner
8	(4)	5215-	**AGGAGIO** J49 (CD) G L Moore 5-8-5	T Hammer Hansen

5-4 Courage Mon Ami, 100-30 Nathanael Greene, 6-1 Aggagio, 7-1 Sir Rumi, 10-1 Global Heat, 14-1 Selwan, 20-1 Traila, 33-1 Tides Of War.

3.45 Novice Stakes (£25,770: 1m 2f) (10)

1	(2)		**LA BELLE AURORE** D Menuisier 4-10-0	H Crouch
2	(4)		**LOWICK** D & C Kubler 3-9-2	R Kingscote
3	(3)		**MAGICAL STORY** J & T Gosden 3-9-2	R Havlin
4	(5)		**MALKA** K P De Foy 3-9-2	D O'Neill
5	(6)	5-	**MONTEVIDEO** 249 Charlie Johnston 3-9-2	J Fanning
6	(8)		**RED DANIELLE** R Varian 3-9-2	J Mitchell
7	(9)		**ROGUE PRINCESS** Tom Clover 3-9-2	H Turner
8	(10)		**ROYAL MILA** W Haggas 3-9-2	T Marquand
9	(7)	05	**SURGE** 18 D Menuisier 3-9-2	S Cherchi
10	(1)	3-3	**FLYING CIRCUS** 22 (P,BF) M Botti 3-9-0	James Doyle

11-4 Magical Story, 7-2 Royal Mila, 4-1 Red Danielle, 6-1 Flying Circus, 8-1 Montevideo, 12-1 Malka, 14-1 Rogue Princess, 20-1 La Belle Aurore.

4.20 Handicap (£26,170: 1m 4f) (9)

1	(9)	410-2	**CRYSTAL ESTRELLA** 25 (C) Sir M Stoute 4-10-3	R Kingscote
2	(5)	2114-	**TAMILLA** 266 (BF,D) W Haggas 4-9-12	T Marquand
3	(2)	230-5	**HASEEFAH** 32 (CD) A King 6-9-12	H Crouch
4	(7)	050-5	**SINGLE** 20 Jack Channon 6-9-7	Rose Dawes (5)
5	(8)	-1432	**AIMING HIGH** 7 (H) D M Simcock 4-9-5	H Turner
6	(3)	15014	**RIKONA** 25 (V,D) K P De Foy 4-9-2	P Bradley (3)
7	(6)	51-16	**SUNSET POINT** 14 C Appleby 3-8-13	James Doyle
8	(4)	23-11	**GOOD MORALS** 7 (D) Charlie Johnston 3-8-11	J Fanning
9	(1)	120-	**WYOMING** 217 P & O Cole 3-8-9	C Fallon

11-4 Crystal Estrella, 7-2 Good Morals, 5-1 Tamilla, 6-1 Sunset Point, 10-1 Single, 12-1 Haseefah, Aiming High, Wyoming, 14-1 Rikona.

4.55 Handicap (3-Y-O: £6,621: 5f) (9)

1	(7)	1-311	**HARRY BROWN** 112 (D) D M Simcock 9-11	H Turner
2	(4)	000-0	**SWIFT ASSET** 37 (D) R Hannon 9-8	P Dobbs
3	(9)	5221-	**PURE ANGEL** 201 (D) James Horton 9-8	P J McDonald
4	(1)	1-263	**FERROUS** 21 (BF) Jack Channon 9-5	James Doyle
5	(2)	-4111	**UMMING N' AHING** 21 (CD) W G M Turner 9-4	Alec Voikhansky (5)
6	(5)	2-604	**LOVE AFFAIRS** 15 (B,C) Miss A Murphy 9-4	T Marquand
7	(8)	-5200	**HUBERTS DREAM** 17 S C Williams 9-3	R Kingscote
8	(6)	1254-	**NEW HOPE BULLET** 214 (D) Alice Haynes 9-3	T Hammer Hansen
9	(3)	41-50	**DESPERATE HERO** 23 Jack Channon 8-13	Rose Dawes (5)

11-4 Harry Brown, 3-1 Umming N' Ahing, 4-1 Pure Angel, 6-1 Ferrous, 10-1 New Hope Bullet, 14-1 Desperate Hero, Love Affairs, 16-1 others.

York

Thunderer

1.35 Maywake
2.10 The Line
2.40 Korker
3.15 Mimikyu
3.50 Tellus
4.25 Saxon King
5.00 Titan Rock

Going: good to firm-good in places — **Racing TV**
Draw: no advantage

1.35 Handicap (£10,468: 7f) (20)

1	(7)	506-6	**ELDRICKJONES** 22 R Fell 4-9-10	D Tudhope
2	(12)	00-33	**MAYWAKE** 27 (P,BF,CD) R Fahey 5-9-9	Oisin Orr
3	(2)	-4003	**ANOTHER INVESTMENT** 8 (C) N Tinkler 4-9-8	L Edmunds
4	(8)	321-0	**QUICK CHANGE** 79 (D) K R Burke 4-9-8	P-L Jamin (3)
5	(3)	04-60	**MOTAGALLY** 8 (B) S Dixon 7-9-7	K O'Neill
6	(14)	055-5	**LA MAQUINA** 14 (T,D) Harry Eustace 8-9-7	J Crowley
7	(11)	1020-	**ISLAND BANDIT** 208 (B,D) H Main 4-9-6	F Larson (3)
8	(1)	46-50	**GOLDEN APOLLO** 8 (P,T,C,D) T Easterby 9-9-4	D Allan
9	(18)	0-003	**MUNTADAB** 21 (D) R Fell 11-9-3	J Peate (3)
10	(6)	35-04	**AMAYSMONT** 120 K Frost 6-9-3	Rossa Ryan
11	(5)	114-1	**BICEP** 12 (D) G Tuer 4-9-3	S James
12	(4)	3-623	**INTERCESSOR** 14 (B) J Gallagher 6-9-3	D Muscutt
13	(17)	0/14-	**FINBAR'S LAD** 278 (D) J J Quinn 4-9-2	J Hart
14	(19)	516-0	**BEAUTY CHOICE** 45 (D) M & D Easterby 6-9-2	Joanna Mason
15	(15)	-2036	**MAGICAL MAX** 61 (T,C) I Furtado 6-9-1	Elle-May Croot (7)
16	(10)	11-11	**ALBESEEINGYER** 14 (D) Steph Hollinshead 4-9-1	D Costello
17	(13)	340-0	**FLORAL SPLENDOUR** 27 (D) I Jardine 4-8-13	P Mulrennan
18	(9)	0-044	**EY UP ITS THE BOSS** 21 (P,D) T Coyle 4-8-11	T Eaves
19	(20)	06-01	**DOCTOR KHAN JUNIOR** 19 (V) G Oldroyd 4-8-11	H Russell (3)
20	(16)	54-00	**SIR MAXI** 21 (D) R Fahey 5-8-10	C Hardie

4-1 Another Investment, 5-1 Maywake, 11-2 Bicep, Albeseeingyer, 10-1 Intercessor, 12-1 Doctor Khan Junior, Eldrickjones, 14-1 La Maquina, Quick Change.

2.10 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £10,800: 6f) (10)

1	(8)		**NATIVE AMERICAN** R Fahey 9-7	Oisin Orr
2	(2)		**SALAMANCA LAD** R Fahey 9-7	J Garritty
3	(7)	3	**THE LINE** 24 R Hannon 9-7	D Tudhope
4	(6)	5	**TICKTYBOO** 9 N Tinkler 9-7	R Scott
5	(10)		**BATAL ZABEEL** K Ryan 9-5	T Eaves
6	(4)		**MBAPPE** E Walker 9-5	S Osborne
7	(5)		**MISTER GAN** Craig Lidster 9-5	C Hardie
8	(9)		**SHOWBOATED** N Tinkler 9-5	L Edmunds
9	(3)	60	**SOCIALISE** 9 N Tinkler 9-5	F McManoman
10	(1)	6	**SAYIDH KINGMAN** 22 Charlie Johnston 9-2	D Muscutt

11-4 The Line, 5-1 Native American, Batal Zabeel, 7-1 Ticktyboo, Sayidh Kingman, 10-1 Salamanca Lad, Mbappe, 14-1 others.

2.40 Handicap (£25,770: 5f) (14) ITV4

1	(10)	20-02	**KORKER** 9 (CD) K R Burke 4-9-12	P-L Jamin (3)
2	(5)	210-0	**CHIPSTEAD** 21 (D) R Teal 5-9-11	F Larson (3)
3	(4)	11-20	**FINE WINE** 102 (B,CD) S Dixon 6-9-11	K O'Neill
4	(7)	44306	**ALLIGATOR ALLEY** 9 (T,CD) D O'Meara 6-9-7	D Tudhope
5	(3)	2-063	**BEDFORD FLYER** 9 (P,CD) M Appleby 5-9-6	L Edmunds
6	(13)	000-5	**ZARZYNI** 49 (P,D) D & N Barron 6-9-5	J Hart
7	(2)	00-54	**MONDAMMEJ** 9 (H,D) A Brittain 6-9-4	C Hardie
8	(1)	00-00	**BURNING CASH** 39 (D) P Midgley 5-8-13	G Lee
9	(12)	0-460	**COPPER KNIGHT** 9 (T,CD) T Easterby 9-8-8	D Fentiman
10	(14)	1-022	**MUSIC SOCIETY** 7 (D) T Easterby 8-8-7	H Shaw
11	(9)	116-0	**SQUEALER** 17 (CD) N Tinkler 3-8-7	R Scott
12	(6)	640-4	**SPRING IS SPRUNG** 57 (D) P Midgley 4-8-3	Joanna Mason
13	(8)	0-005	**SOUND OF IONA** 12 (D) J Goldie 7-8-3	Amie Waugh (5)
14	(11)	51151	**REIGNING PROFIT** 15 (V,D) R Carr 4-8-2	JP Sullivan

100-30 Korker, 6-1 Bedford Flyer, 8-1 Reigning Profit, Mondammej, Chipstead, 10-1 Music Society, Fine Wine, 12-1 Zarzyni.

Thunderer's choice: Korker had several of these behind when a good second here last time **Danger:** Mondammej

3.15 Fillies' Stakes (Group 3: £57,844: 1m 6f) (9) ITV4

1	(6)	1010-	**MIMIKYU** 224 (H) J & T Gosden 4-9-7	K O'Neill
2	(2)	130-0	**ALAROOS** 22 Harry Eustace 4-9-2	J Crowley
3	(4)	23-04	**MOON DAISY** 8 (B,D) Donnacha O'Brien (Ire) 5-9-2	Oisin Orr
4	(3)	4/15-	**ONE EVENING** 212 (BF) J & T Gosden 4-9-2	D Tudhope
5	(1)	2115-	**RIVER OF STARS** 261 (D) R Beckett 4-9-2	Rossa Ryan
6	(9)	121	**SEA FLAWLESS** 30 W Haggas 4-9-2	D Muscutt
7	(5)	30-64	**TYPEWRITER** 10 A Balding 4-9-2	S Osborne
8	(7)	150-5	**VOODOO QUEEN** 22 R Varian 4-9-2	A Atzeni
9	(8)	00005	**WICKYWICKYWHEELS** 8 J Goldie 5-9-2	P Mulrennan

11-10 Mimikyu, 5-1 River Of Stars, 11-2 Sea Flawless, 10-1 Alaroos, One Evening, 14-1 Wickywickywheels, Voodoo Queen, 20-1 others.

Thunderer's choice: Mimikyu is a smart filly and is favoured by the weights despite having a penalty **Danger:** Sea Flawless

3.50 Handicap (3-Y-O: £10,468: 7f) (14)

1	(8)	24-11	**TELLUS** 19 (T,D) J J Quinn 9-9	J Hart
2	(6)	353-3	**VERDANSK** 21 C Cox 9-9	Rossa Ryan
3	(13)	501-	**FIVE TOWNS** 220 (D) W Haggas 9-8	A Atzeni
4	(12)	642-2	**STARNBERG** 14 (B) R Hannon 9-7	J Crowley
5	(3)	2-025	**ZABBIE** 9 (D) R Hannon 9-6	C Hardie
6	(2)	11-35	**MONOPOLISE** 37 (D) E Walker 9-5	S Osborne
7	(7)	23-21	**RIVER USK** 26 (D) R Fahey 9-5	Oisin Orr
8	(9)	2200-	**CRAVEN** 282 (V) R Fahey 9-4	J Garritty
9	(11)	44-01	**CONCERT BOY** 19 (D) D O'Meara 9-3	D Tudhope
10	(1)	503-1	**HARLEM NIGHTS** 52 (D) James Horton 9-3	T Eaves
11	(14)	651	**AMERICAN AFFAIR** 11 (D) J Goldie 9-3	P Mulrennan
12	(5)	300-6	**IMPULSIVE REACTION** 37 (D) T Easterby 9-0	JP Sullivan
13	(4)	130-6	**SALEET** 37 T Easterby 9-0	D Fentiman
14	(10)	34-24	**TASEVER** 17 T Easterby 8-13	D Allan

7-2 Tellus, 9-2 River Usk, 15-2 Five Towns, 8-1 Harlem Nights, Starnberg, 10-1 Concert Boy, American Affair, 12-1 Zabbie, Verdansk.

4.25 Handicap (3-Y-O: £10,800: 1m) (10)

1	(10)	322-1	**MAXIMILIAN CAESAR** 21 (D) M Botti 9-9	A Atzeni
2	(7)	410-0	**DUBAI JEMILA** 38 K Ryan 9-8	T Eaves
3	(2)	4-16	**SCEPTIC** 22 A Balding 9-7	S Osborne
4	(9)	321-1	**SAXON KING** 20 (D) C Hills 9-6	J Crowley
5	(4)	211-4	**QUANTUM IMPACT** 21 (BF) R Beckett 9-6	Rossa Ryan
6	(5)	00-24	**FEEL THE NEED** 14 D O'Meara 9-6	D Tudhope
7	(3)	30-62	**METAHORSE** 21 (V) M Bell 9-5	Oisin Orr
8	(1)	21-56	**THEME PARK** 10 N Tinkler 9-5	R Scott
9	(8)	-3261	**SPIORADALTA** 14 (D) M Walford 8-13	J Garritty
10	(6)	43-3	**REIDH** 24 (BF) R Fahey 8-12	C Hardie

3-1 Saxon King, 7-2 Maximilian Caesar, 5-1 Quantum Impact, 13-2 Reidh, 15-2 Sceptic, 12-1 Dubai Jemila, 14-1 others.

5.00 Handicap (£15,462: 7f) (11)

1	(9)	5-130	**SHINING BLUE** 84 (D) S bin Suroor 5-10-2	D Muscutt
2	(2)	-0106	**BOPEDRO** 9 (V,D) D O'Meara 7-10-1	D Tudhope
3	(4)	510-5	**DOCUMENTING** 59 (CD) K Frost 10-10-0	Rossa Ryan
4	(5)	31-12	**OPEN MIND** 99 (P,D) S bin Suroor 4-9-11	L Steward
5	(7)	54-00	**FOOLS RUSH IN** 10 (D) J Goldie 5-9-7	P Mulrennan
6	(10)	00-00	**CRUYFF TURN** 9 (C,D) T Easterby 6-9-7	D Allan
7	(3)	0500-	**VOLATILE ANALYST** 203 (H,CD) K Dalgleish 6-9-6	S James
8	(1)	30240	**LORD OF THE LODGE** 7 (D) K R Burke 6-9-2	P-L Jamin (3)
9	(6)	10-61	**SLUZEWIEC** 89 (P,D) S Dixon 4-9-1	K O'Neill
10	(11)	05512	**TITAN ROCK** 8 (D) J J Quinn 5-9-0	J Hart
11	(8)	31-12	**YORKSHIRE** 16 (BF) E Bethell 3-8-3	A Atzeni

11-4 Yorkshire, 4-1 Titan Rock, Open Mind, 7-1 Cruyff Turn, 15-2 Shining Blue, 10-1 Bopedro, 20-1 others.

THUNDERER'S WEEKEND GUIDE

Big-race trends
Betfred Temple Stakes
(3.30 Haydock Park)
The only three-year-olds to win this Group 2 sprint century have been Airwave (2003), Fleeting Spirit (2008) and Hot Streak (2014), although only five have represented the generation since 2015. Dramatised and The Platinum Queen, both fillies, fly the flag this time.

Banker or bust?
Courage Mon Ami
(3.10 Goodwood)
The son of Frankel was unraced at two and only made his debut last year in mid-September, but he won in fine style at Kempton before easily following up at Newcastle. The handicapper has not gone easy on him but he's in excellent hands and open to plenty of improvement. BANKER

Red-hot trainer
Harry Eustace
This has been the young trainer's best month to date, with seven winners from 28 runners. That 25 per cent strike rate would be even better but for another trio being beaten half a length or less. He has four runners today, divided between York and Salisbury.

Repeat performance
Boardman
(4.05 Chester)
The Tim Easterby-trained seven-year-old has won this race for the past two years and seems likely to make a bold bid for the hat-trick. This time, he competes off 97, although a draw in stall eight may also be an obstacle.

What's in a name
Mbappe
(2.10 York)
Owner Laurence Bellman is clearly a fan of the outstanding French international, who scored a hat-trick in last year's World Cup final but ended up on the losing side. The equine version makes his debut this afternoon, a couple of hours before De Bruyne runs at Haydock.

Bet of the day
Pure Angel
(4.55 Goodwood)
Won a novice event at Wolverhampton in November in commanding fashion, with subsequent Listed winner Great State back in third. The official assessor looks to have been lenient in allotting her a mark of 84 for her handicap bow.

Cartmel
Thunderer

1.40 Moon D'Orange
2.15 Merry Poppins
2.45 Lights Are Green
3.20 Champ De Gane
3.55 Follow Your Arrow
4.30 Fidux
5.05 Bright Sunbird

Going: good — **Racing TV**

1.40 Maiden Hurdle (£4,955: 2m 6f) (7)

1	322-3 **ARTISTE D'AINAY** 22 (T) S Crawford (Ire) 5-11-4	**D Jacob**
2	036-2 **BOOMSLANG** 17 R Menzies 6-11-4	**B Hughes**
3	U6P0- **CUZCO DU MATHAN** 31 (B) J Moffatt 5-11-4	**Charlotte Jones (3)**
4	34- **MOON D'ORANGE** 150 J McConnell (Ire) 5-11-4	**B Harvey (3)**
5	P2- **POETRY MAN** 48 G Bewley 5-11-4	**J Bewley (3)**
6	F0-6 **BAY WEST** 9 (H) A B Hamilton 4-10-10	**R Chapman**
7	406-0 **BANNOCKBURN** 21 M Hammond 4-10-3	**J Thompson (10)**

Evens Moon D'orange, 15-8 Artiste D'ainay, 5-1 Boomslang, 14-1 Cuzco Du Mathan, 25-1 Poetry Man, 33-1 Bannockburn, 100-1 Bay West.

2.15 Handicap Hurdle (£6,842: 2m 1f) (5)

1	022-3 **MERRY POPPINS** 14 (B,T) D McCain 6-12-0	**B Hughes**
2	0560/ **PEARL OF THE WEST** F141 (P,T,D) J McConnell (Ire) 9-11-9	**B Harvey (3)**
3	0512- **MAGICAL MAGGIE** 30 (D) A Ralph 6-11-5	**J Tidball (7)**
4	P10P- **WICKLOW FLYER** 243 (P) J Wainwright 6-11-2	**J Williamson (5)**
5	021U- **BLUE HAWAII** F14 (T) T Collier 8-10-12	**Sean Quinlan**

11-8 Magical Maggie, 7-4 Merry Poppins, 100-30 Blue Hawaii, 16-1 Pearl Of The West, 25-1 Wicklow Flyer.

2.45 Handicap Chase (£4,192: 3m 1f 107yd) (11)

1	1P/4- **ARCHIE BROWN** 43 (P) H Hogarth 9-12-0	**J Hamilton**
2	1123- **ALI STAR BERT** 34 S A Harris 7-11-7	**J Quinlan**
3	P4P-1 **BALLYNAGRAN** 21 (T) J E Foster 8-11-5	**H Brooke**
4	33F-1 **LIGHTS ARE GREEN** 14 G Bewley 6-11-4	**J Bewley (3)**
5	225-5 **QUIET FLOW** 12 (T,V) S England 8-10-11	**T Midgley (3)**
6	2P5P- **BIG GANGSTA** 31 J Moffatt 7-10-8	**Charlotte Jones (3)**
7	246-0 **SO LADYLIKE** 22 (P,T) C A McBratney (Ire) 9-10-6	**D McMenamin**
8	PPP-F **ALLARDYCE** 17 (B) P Henderson 11-10-2	**A Anderson (5)**
9	43P5- **OLD PAGE** 64 A Sadik 6-10-2	**B Poste**
10	PP4-0 **O'GRADY'S BOY** 21 (P) G Hanmer 12-10-2	**Tabitha Worsley (3)**
11	005-4 **PASSING SECRETS** 17 (P,T) T R Gretton 7-10-2	**R T Dunne**

15-8 Lights Are Green, 100-30 Ballynagran, 5-1 Ali Star Bert, 13-2 Quiet Flow, 14-1 Big Gangsta, 16-1 So Ladylike, Passing Secrets, Archie Brown.

3.20 Handicap Chase (£7,706: 2m 1f) (5)

1	604-3 **A DIFFERENT KIND** 26 D McCain 6-11-10	**B Hughes**
2	0502- **AL ZARAQAAN** F15 (BF) S England 6-11-6	**J England**
3	2F62- **CHAMP DE GANE** 36 (T) S Crawford (Ire) 6-11-5	**D Jacob**
4	U20-0 **VOCAL DUKE** 21 J Moffatt 7-11-1	**Charlotte Jones (3)**
5	222/2 **GOLD LINK** 21 E Lavelle 7-10-13	**T Bellamy**

15-8 Gold Link, 9-4 A Different Kind, 5-2 Champ De Gane, 10-1 Al Zaraqaan, 12-1 Vocal Duke.

3.55 Handicap Chase (£5,096: 2m 5f) (11)

1	133P- **ZUMBI** 30 (P) J Moffatt 6-12-2	**Charlotte Jones (3)**
2	252-3 **TOUCH KICK** 17 (D) S G West 12-12-1	**B Lynn (3)**
3	P15P- **GETAWAY LUV** 43 Lizzie Quinlan 8-12-0	**Sean Quinlan**
4	5516- **MISTER BELLS** 43 (P,D) M Hammond 9-11-11	**H Brooke**
5	4213- **BOLSOVER BILL** 32 (P,T,BF) W Greatrex 6-11-9	**B J Powell**
6	03P2- **CENOTICE** 29 (P,T) D McCain 9-11-8	**T Gillard**
7	63P0- **NUTTORRIDGE** 218 (T) M McNiff (Ire) 8-11-8	**K Brogan**
8	2P0-2 **FOLLOW YOUR ARROW** 21 G Bewley 7-11-5	**J Bewley (3)**
9	114-P **RAECIUS FELIX** 21 (P,D) R Menzies 9-11-4	**B Hughes**
10	1120- **ARDERA CROSS** 35 (C,D) W Young Jnr 12-11-3	**S Coltherd**
11	/03-P **DO NO WRONG** 21 Justin Landy 7-10-8	**J Kington**

5-1 Follow Your Arrow, 11-2 Cenotice, 6-1 Touch Kick, 7-1 Bolsover Bill, 15-2 Zumbi, Ardera Cross, 8-1 Mister Bells, 10-1 Raecius Felix.

4.30 Handicap Chase (£7,473: 3m 1f 107yd) (6)

1	4/50- **GO ANOTHER ONE** 28 (T) J McConnell (Ire) 11-12-0	**B Harvey (3)**
2	4P21- **THE WOLF** 29 (T,V) O Murphy 9-11-12	**A P Heskin**
3	5022- **FIDUX** 47 A King 10-11-8	**T Bellamy**
4	U5UP- **KAUTO RIKO** 112 (P,T) T R Gretton 12-11-7	**B Hughes**
5	P03P- **DALLAS DES PICTONS** 42 (P) D Sayer 10-11-1	**H Brooke**
6	/10P- **BREAKING THE ICE** 174 (W,CD) G Bewley 8-10-3	**J Bewley (3)**

5-4 The Wolf, 5-2 Fidux, 4-1 Go Another One, 12-1 Breaking The Ice, Kauto Riko, 25-1 Dallas Des Pictons.

5.05 Handicap Hurdle (£6,582: 3m 1f) (7)

1	4455- **COULD BE TROUBLE** 37 (B,T) D McCain 8-12-0	**T Gillard**
2	403-1 **MARY CASSATT** 12 (T) J McConnell (Ire) 4-12-0	**Mr A Harvey (7)**
3	313P- **PARIS DIXIE** 193 (T) A Honeyball 8-11-11	**B Godfrey (3)**
4	5031- **JERSEY LADY** 34 (D) O Sherwood 7-11-7	**Miss Victoria Malzard (7)**
5	F1PP- **ON WE GO** 40 (P,C) G Boanas 10-11-6	**Sean Quinlan**
6	650-2 **BRIGHT SUNBIRD** 18 (P,C) G Hanmer 8-11-2	**Tabitha Worsley (3)**
7	312-2 **EMILY WADE** 11 (H) S England 6-10-7	**J England**

13-8 Mary Cassatt, 9-2 Emily Wade, 11-2 Jersey Lady, 6-1 Paris Dixie, 15-2 Bright Sunbird, 8-1 Could Be Trouble, 14-1 On We Go.

Chester
Thunderer

2.20 Alsakib
2.55 Baattah
3.35 Pons Aelius
4.05 Boardman
4.40 Absolutelyflawless
5.15 Perfect Play
5.45 Greystroke

Going: good — **Sky Sports Racing**
Draw: low numbers best

2.20 Novice Stakes (£5,154: 1m) (8)

1	(7) 1- **ORCHID BLOOM** 210 W Haggas 3-9-7	**A Farragher (3)**
2	(4) 2 **ALSAKIB** 40 (BF) A Balding 3-9-5	**H Davies (3)**
3	(5) 00 **ARAWAN** 14 M Loughnane 3-9-5	**L Keniry**
4	(3) 0- **BOXING ALEX** 288 D Loughnane 3-9-5	**K Stott**
5	(1) 4- **KINTARO** 231 R Fahey 3-9-5	**D Nolan**
6	(6) 4-0 **SEALINE** 37 R Varian 3-9-5	**Jefferson Smith**
7	(2) 0 **TRICKYTRICKYTRICKY** 17 P Kirby 3-9-5	**F Norton**
8	(8) 4 **O G BEACHWEAR** 21 H Palmer 3-9-0	**A Mullen**

13-8 Orchid Bloom, 2-1 Alsakib, 5-1 Kintaro, 7-1 O G Beachwear, 10-1 Sealine, 25-1 Boxing Alex, 66-1 Trickytrickytricky, Arawan.

2.55 Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £12,740: 6f) (8)

1	(1) 32 **BATTAAH** 21 R Hannon 9-7	**K Stott**
2	(8) 6 **EDWARD** 2 C Fellowes 9-7	**Jefferson Smith**
3	(6) 4 **HAVANARAMA** 16 H Palmer 9-7	**H Davies**
4	(5) **OVERLOOKED** T Dascombe 9-7	**L Keniry**
5	(2) 3 **POLITICO** 11 Charlie Johnston 9-7	**F Norton**
6	(4) 2 **SIOUX WARRIOR** 28 C Hills 9-7	**B Sayette**
7	(7) **WATCHA MATEY** (H) H Palmer 9-7	**B Curtis**
8	(3) **ROUBAY** D Loughnane 9-2	**Laura Pearson**

5-2 Sioux Warrior, 11-4 Battaah, 5-1 Watcha Matey, 7-1 Havanarama, 8-1 Politico, 12-1 Edward, Overlooked, 14-1 Roubay.

3.35 Handicap (£5,154: 2m) (9)

1	(7) 00352 **PONS AELIUS** 8 (D) Charlie Johnston 4-10-0	**F Norton**
2	(5) 50000 **OMAN** 15 (B,C) I Williams 5-9-12	**B Sanderson (3)**
3	(2) 400-0 **HEART OF SOUL** 15 (P,C) P Morris 8-9-12	**L Keniry**
4	(9) 44344 **MUKHA MAGIC** 19 (B,T,D) G Kelleway 7-9-11	**A Farragher (3)**
5	(8) 11313 **ROCK CHANT** 21 (P,T,D) I Williams 5-9-7	**B Curtis**
6	(3) 223-2 **SCOTTISH DANCER** 21 (P,BF) K Dalgleish 4-9-4	**B Garritty**
7	(4) 3/2-4 **CAPONE** 21 D F Davis 8-9-2	**K Stott**
8	(1) 110-6 **INFINITI** 44 (D) K Frost 10-9-2	**B Sayette (3)**
9	(6) 54-02 **RED DEREK** 14 L Williamson 7-8-12	**A Elliott**

2-1 Pons Aelius, 7-2 Red Derek, 4-1 Scottish Dancer, 11-2 Rock Chant, 12-1 Capone, 14-1 Mukha Magic, 16-1 Oman, 25-1 Heart Of Soul, Infiniti.

4.05 Handicap (£25,480: 1m) (11)

1	(9) 140-0 **DAWN OF LIBERATION** 21 (D) R Hannon 4-9-12	**Jefferson Smith**
2	(3) 104-3 **PERCY'S LAD** 15 (CD) D & C Kubler 5-9-11	**B Curtis**
3	(8) -0055 **BOARDMAN** 15 (CD) T Easterby 7-9-10	**P Dennis**
4	(11) 4-624 **STREET KID** 52 (P) K P De Foy 5-9-5	**B Sayette (3)**
5	(4) 244-4 **RED MIRAGE** 15 (CD) J J Quinn 5-9-5	**Dale Swift**
6	(10) 00-50 **AUSTRIAN THEORY** 21 (D) Charlie Johnston 4-9-4	**F Norton**
7	(5) 15-50 **CARNIVAL ZAIN** 7 (CD) M Hammond 6-9-3	**B Garritty**
8	(7) 60016 **ON A SESSION** 13 D & N Barron 7-9-3	**H Davies (3)**
9	(6) 20-00 **AL RUFAA** 15 C Fellowes 6-9-3	**K Stott**
10	(1) 052-3 **PAWS FOR THOUGHT** 17 (BF,C) D McCain 5-8-7	**J F Egan**
11	(2) -2300 **ROUDEMENTAL** 17 (T,D) H Palmer 4-8-6	**A Mullen**

7-2 Percy's Lad, 4-1 Red Mirage, Boardman, 13-2 Paws For Thought, 10-1 On A Session, Carnival Zain, 12-1 Street Kid, 14-1 Dawn Of Liberation.

4.40 Handicap (3-Y-O: £6,185: 6f) (8)

1	(8) 10-00 **FRANKNESS** 17 (C) A Balding 9-11	**H Davies (3)**
2	(6) 3001- **DISTINGUISHED LADY** 212 (T,D) Alice Haynes 9-5	**K Stott**
3	(1) 42-13 **ROYAL DRESS** 17 (BF,D) R Hannon 9-4	**L Keniry**
4	(4) 1045- **PALM LILY** 245 (D) R Beckett 9-2	**J F Egan**
5	(2) -1511 **RADIO GOO GOO** 2 (CD) P Evans 9-8(6ex)	**B Curtis**
6	(3) 06-01 **ABSOLUTELYFLAWLESS** 12 (C,D) D Loughnane 9-2	**Laura Pearson (3)**
7	(7) 15-12 **WASDALE** 18 (D) J Camacho 8-8	**F Norton**
8	(5) 2-000 **CORINTHIAN KID** 17 (D) P Morris 8-6	**Morgan Cole (7)**

5-2 Radio Goo Goo, 3-1 Royal Dress, 5-1 Palm Lily, 6-1 Distinguished Lady, 8-1 Absolutelyflawless, Wasdale, 10-1 Frankness, 50-1 Corinthian Kid.

5.15 Handicap (3-Y-O: £6,185: 1m 2f) (8)

1	(2) 21224 **RAZONI** 23 (P,T) G Boughey 9-9	**K Stott**
2	(5) 325-5 **WE COULD BE HEROES** 19 (P) R Hughes 9-9	**F Marsh**
3	(1) 056 **PLAYACTOR** 18 R Hannon 9-6	**L Keniry**
4	(6) 014-2 **PERFECT PLAY** 11 Charlie Johnston 9-6	**F Norton**
5	(7) 534-6 **DRAGONBALL PRINCE** 16 (V) H Palmer 9-5	**B Curtis**
6	(4) 462-6 **ORANGE MARTINI** 25 A Balding 9-3	**H Davies (3)**
7	(3) 34142 **LOOK BACK SMILING** 15 (P) Gemma Tutty 9-3	**Laura Coughlan (5)**
8	(8) 53-16 **EAGLE PRINCE** 11 B Ellison 8-9	**B Robinson**

5-2 Perfect Play, 5-1 Orange Martini, Look Back Smiling, 11-2 We Could Be Heroes, 8-1 Playactor, Razoni, 10-1 Eagle Prince, 12-1 Dragonball Prince.

5.45 Handicap (£6,185: 1m 4f) (10)

1	(4) 100-0 **LIZZIE JEAN** 56 (H) I Furtado 4-10-2	**D Nolan**
2	(8) 10036 **KNIGHT OF HONOUR** 13 (P) R Fahey 4-10-1	**C Murtagh**
3	(1) /1-00 **ZEALANDIA** 15 (P,D) I Williams 6-9-13	**B Curtis**
4	(2) 32221 **GREYSTOKE** 15 (CD) A King 5-9-13	**B Sayette (3)**
5	(7) 101-0 **BLISTERING BARNEY** 28 (D) C Kellett 7-9-12	**P Mathers**
6	(5) 00-40 **WYNTER WILDES** 14 (P,D) C Fellowes 4-9-10	**H Davies (3)**
7	(3) 5230- **RESTORER** 211 (P,C,D) I Williams 11-9-6	**B Sanderson (3)**
8	(9) 0-513 **THE NU FORM WAY** 15 (CD) Mrs Stella Barclay 5-9-4	**K Stott**
9	(6) 50-05 **CHILLHI** 14 B Ellison 3-9-0	**B Robinson**
10	(10) -1242 **DEMILION** 16 Charlie Johnston 3-8-11	**F Norton**

5-2 Demilion, 3-1 Greystoke, 9-2 The Nu Form Way, 8-1 Knight Of Honour, 12-1 Chillhi, Wynter Wildes, Lizzie Jean, Zealandia.

Ffos Las
Thunderer

5.55 Moonlit Warrior
6.25 Hardy Boy
6.55 Abaya Du Mathan
7.25 Gavin
7.55 Nikhi
8.25 Cresswell Queen
8.55 Whatawit

Going: good — **Sky Sports Racing**

5.55 Maiden Hurdle (£4,357: 2m) (9)

1	UP-04 **BLAZING HARTINGO** 10 E Williams 5-11-2	**C Ring (3)**
2	6000- **BRIGHT FOCUS** 52 L Hurley 5-11-2	**J Best**
3	60-3 **CAPTAIN ATTRIDGE** 13 Henry Oliver 5-11-2	**L Edwards**
4	P/P0- **DEAL EM HIGH** 32 D Hamer 6-11-2	**H Reed**
5	00-0 **RUBY'S COMET** 19 D Hamer 5-11-2	**B R Jones**
6	443- **JUGGERNAUT** 90 A Honeyball 4-10-10	**R Dingle**
7	**MOONLIT WARRIOR** F245 D Pipe 4-10-10	**J Tudor**
8	664- **ASTRO BABE** 30 E Williams 5-10-9	**A Wedge**
9	465-3 **SPLASHING WAVE** 10 P Bowen 6-10-9	**S Bowen**

8-11 Splashing Wave, 4-1 Moonlit Warrior, 5-1 Captain Attridge, Juggernaut, 33-1 Astro Babe, 50-1 Blazing Hartingo, 100-1 others.

6.25 Handicap Chase (£3,406: 2m 3f) (7)

1	246-3 **HARDY BOY** 15 B Pauling 6-12-0	**Luca Morgan**
2	3100- **FANZIO** 30 (B,T,D) L Hurley 8-12-0	**G Sheehan**
3	3123- **DINDIN** 30 (B,T) D Pipe 10-11-6	**P Armson (3)**
4	P3P-0 **HOLERDAY RIDGE** 18 (H,T) Claire Hitch 8-11-2	**C Gethings**
5	4245- **HERONORD** 236 E Williams 6-11-2	**A Wedge**
6	P5P0- **TALKINGTHETALK** 31 Sheila Lewis 6-10-4	**Sean Houlihan**
7	000/ **PADDY'S RETURN** 842 P Bowen 7-10-2	**S Bowen**

13-8 Hardy Boy, 7-4 Dindin, 5-1 Heronord, 10-1 Holerday Ridge, 12-1 Fanzio, 25-1 Talkingthetalk, 33-1 Paddy's Return.

6.55 Handicap Chase (£4,859: 2m) (5)

1	521-6 **DONNIE AZOFF** 21 J Snowden 7-12-0	**G Sheehan**
2	5U56- **COURTLAND** 70 (CD) P Bowen 8-11-13	**S Bowen**
3	13U-3 **FEEL THE PINCH** 18 (T,BF) R L Llewellyn 9-11-13	**T Wynne (5)**
4	P44-0 **GLAJOU** 19 (P,T,D) N Mulholland 7-11-12	**R Mania**
5	221-2 **ABAYA DU MATHAN** 18 (B,T,C) D Pipe 11-10-13	**J Tudor**

15-8 Abaya Du Mathan, 3-1 Feel The Pinch, Donnie Azoff, 5-1 Glajou, 10-1 Courtland.

7.25 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m) (4)

1	4411- **HORN CAPE** 58 (D) B Haslam 6-11-13	**R McLernon**
2	4F0-6 **JUST THE MAN** 7 (D) J G O'Shea 7-11-12	**A Wedge**
3	210P- **CORNICELLO** 30 (D) J Snowden 5-11-11	**G Sheehan**
4	502-1 **GAVIN** 18 (H,T,D) P Bowen 5-11-2	**S Bowen**

Evens Gavin, 6-4 Horn Cape, 6-1 Cornicello, 20-1 Just The Man.

7.55 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m 4f) (7)

1	5336- **TULIN** 238 (T,BF) A Honeyball 6-12-1	**R Dingle**
2	2400- **PLATINUMCARD** 46 (T) D Pipe 8-11-13	**J Tudor**
3	650-F **DR SANDERSON** 19 (C,D) B Haslam 9-11-11	**R McLernon**
4	334P- **CLAPTON HILL** 134 B Pauling 5-11-6	**K Woods**
5	245-P **ROCK THE HOUSE** 7 Katy Price 8-11-0	**G Sheehan**
6	3255- **NIKHI** 32 (BF) P Bowen 4-11-0	**S Bowen**
7	12U0- **LOVED OUT** 230 (C) E Williams 6-10-11	**A Wedge**

5-2 Tulin, 3-1 Nikhi, 7-2 Dr Sanderson, 7-1 Clapton Hill, 8-1 Rock The House, Loved Out, 20-1 Platinumcard.

8.25 Handicap Hurdle (£3,406: 3m) (7)

1	/66-4 **MISS PEARL** 18 (H) Sheila Lewis 7-12-0	**B R Jones**
2	3PPP- **BALLYMILAN** 30 (P,T,D) N Mulholland 8-12-0	**R McLernon**
3	3000- **DANA'S GEM** 31 (P) Jonjo O'Neill 5-11-9	**Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
4	2566- **CRESSWELL QUEEN** 262 (H,T) D Hamer 8-11-7	**H Reed**
5	4P0- **LADY ROBINN** 115 (W,T) B Pauling 6-10-12	**K Woods**
6	040-3 **TRE A PENI** 21 (B,T) Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 6-10-9	**T Wynne (5)**
7	0050/ **SAXON QUEEN** 592 P Bowen 6-10-8	**S Bowen**

13-8 Tre A Peni, 7-2 Cresswell Queen, 4-1 Miss Pearl, 13-2 Lady Robinn, 10-1 Dana's Gem, 14-1 Saxon Queen, 16-1 Ballymilan.

8.55 Open NH Flat Race (£2,614: 2m) (2)

1	2-1 **WHATAWIT** 16 (D) Sir M Prescott 5-11-9	**S Bowen**
2	600- **JOHNTHEPOSTMAN** 36 Mrs T Barfoot-Saunt 5-11-2	**Mr G Barfoot-Saunt**

1-66 Whatawit, 16-1 Johnthepostman.

Salisbury
Thunderer

5.35 Notta Nother
6.10 **Cluedo** (nb)
6.40 Maremma
7.10 Sandrine
7.40 Lady Rascal
8.10 Robusto
8.40 Crescent Lake

Going: good to firm — **Racing TV**
Draw: no advantage

5.35 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £5,400: 5f) (12)

1	(8) 1 **SERRIED RANKS** 15 (D) R Beckett 9-10	**R Hornby**
2	(7) **NOTTA NOTHER** R Hannon 9-4	**S Hitchcott**
3	(12) **REVEILLER** A Watson 9-4	**L Morris**
4	(5) 5 **CALL GLORY** 22 Jack Channon 9-2	**C Bishop**
5	(4) **COWBOY STUFF** G Scott 9-2	**C Shepherd**
6	(6) **EDGEWATER DRIVE** Ollie Sangster 9-2	**T Whelan**
7	(3) **MAGIC FORCE** A Balding 9-2	**W Carver (3)**
8	(2) **ROCKINTHEFREEWORLD** A Watson 9-2	**J Bryan**
9	(10) 5 **VIDI VICI** 11 E J-Houghton 9-0	**G Downing**
10	(9) **HUG A TREE** M Bell 8-13	**Dylan Hogan**
11	(1) 4 **MEDIATE ALEXANDER** 12 C Cox 8-11	**J Fahy**
12	(11) 0 **LAND OF MAGIC** 17 R Cook & J Bridger 8-9	**R Clutterbuck**

2-1 Serried Ranks, 9-2 Mediate Alexander, 7-1 Notta Nother, 8-1 Reveiller, 10-1 Call Glory, 12-1 Vidi Vici, 14-1 others.

6.10 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,580: 5f) (10)

1	(5) 16-46 **BETWEENTHESTICKS** 17 (P,D) Jack Channon 9-11	**G Bass (3)**
2	(9) 321 **FAIR WIND** 28 (H,D) Owen Burrows 9-11	**L Morris**
3	(1) 11130 **JUST A SPARK** 8 (D) B Millman 9-9	**R Coakley**
4	(6) 211-6 **WAKAI UMI** 144 (D) M Loughnane 9-9	**B Loughnane (3)**
5	(3) 20-32 **ESTATE** 15 (T,BF) A Balding 9-6	**R Hornby**
6	(10) 363-6 **ANNIE MAHER** 25 M Bell 9-6	**Dylan Hogan**
7	(4) 3053- **LADY JANE GREY** 192 (D) R Guest 9-3	**C Shepherd**
8	(2) 2600- **FRAGRANCE** 219 (D) R Harris 9-2	**C Planas (5)**
9	(7) 5-050 **OPTIVA STAR** 16 R Hannon 9-2	**J Leavy (7)**
10	(8) 043-1 **CLUEDO** 10 (D) H Candy 9-1	**T Whelan**

11-4 Cluedo, 3-1 Fair Wind, 7-1 Annie Maher, 8-1 Betweenthesticks, Estate, 10-1 Just A Spark, Wakai Umi, 14-1 Lady Jane Grey.

6.40 Maiden Stakes (£4,590: 6f) (11)

1	(10) 65- **BE FRANK** 215 H Candy 3-9-7	**T Whelan**
2	(3) 5 **ICE COOL HARRY** 15 (H) C Cox 3-9-7	**W Cox**
3	(8) 54- **LEADENHALL** 217 (BF) R Beckett 3-9-7	**R Hornby**
4	(6) 3 **OKAMI** 16 (BF) R Varian 3-9-7	**Kyle Strydom**
5	(7) 4-0 **AWTAAR** 37 Patrick Owens 3-9-2	**R Coakley**
6	(2) **BONDI BAY** R Guest 3-9-2	**B Loughnane (3)**
7	(1) **DESERT VOICE** W Haggas 3-9-2	**Greg Cheyne**
8	(9) **MAREMMA** (H) Harry Eustace 3-9-2	**G Wood**
9	(11) 6 **MERRNAA** 19 A Watson 3-9-2	**Doubtful**
10	(4) **PEARL'S EDGE** (H) C Mason 3-9-2	**R Clutterbuck**
11	(5) 03- **STARPROOF** 164 W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-2	**C Shepherd**

9-4 Leadenhall, 11-4 Okami, 4-1 Desert Voice, 10-1 Starproof, Be Frank, 12-1 Ice Cool Harry, 16-1 Awtaar, 20-1 Bondi Bay, Maremma.

7.10 Stakes (Listed) (£28,355: 6f) (9)

1	(7) 0314- **ROHAAN** 224 (D) P Evans 5-9-12	**T P Queally**
2	(9) 620/6 **ALBASHEER** 35 (P) A Watson 5-9-7	**L Morris**
3	(6) 21016 **DILIGENT HARRY** 10 (D) C Cox 5-9-7	**J Fahy**
4	(5) 0-060 **KHAADEM** 84 (D) C Hills 7-9-7	**C Bishop**
5	(8) 3100- **ROLFE REMBRANDT** 336 (W,B,D) M Scudamore 5-9-7	**B Loughnane**
6	(1) 042-4 **RUN TO FREEDOM** 14 (P,CD) H Candy 5-9-7	**T Whelan**
7	(3) 0012- **SAM MAXIMUS** 244 (P,D) James Horton 4-9-7	**S Gray**
8	(4) 130-2 **SANDRINE** 14 (D) A Balding 4-9-2	**R Hornby**
9	(2) 165-4 **MARBAAN** 24 (C,D) C Fellowes 3-8-12	**C Shepherd**

15-8 Sandrine, 7-2 Rohaan, 11-2 Run To Freedom, 6-1 Marbaan, 7-1 Sam Maximus, 12-1 Khaadem, Diligent Harry, 33-1 Albasheer, 100-1 Rolfe Rembrandt.

7.40 Classified Stakes (£4,580: 1m 2f) (8)

1	(8) 550 **ALPINA EXPRESS** 44 Charlie Johnston 3-9-2	**O Stammers**
2	(2) 4-524 **CLIMATE PRECEDENT** 23 M Bell 3-9-2	**B Loughnane (3)**
3	(4) 050- **DIFFERENT TONE** 208 E Walker 3-9-2	**R Coakley**
4	(5) 4-406 **I STILL HAVE FAITH** 8 (H) B Brookhouse 3-9-2	**Doubtful**
5	(6) 6-003 **LADY RASCAL** 8 G Boughey 3-9-2	**C Planas (5)**
6	(7) 55-54 **MANUELITO** 8 R Hannon 3-9-2	**S Hitchcott**
7	(1) 45-0 **SAVVY BRILLIANCE** 19 (P) S P C Woods 3-9-2	**D Keenan**
8	(3) 0-33 **VICTORIA COUNTY** 28 A Watson 3-9-2	**L Morris**

3-1 Victoria County, 100-30 Lady Rascal, 4-1 Manuelito, 11-2 Climate Precedent, 7-1 Alpina Express, 8-1 Different Tone, 12-1 Savvy Brilliance.

8.10 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,926: 1m 4f) (7)

1	(5) 250-4 **ABSOLUTE QUEEN** 32 (P) G Boughey 9-11	**C Planas (5)**
2	(1) 00-34 **GRAHAM** 9 R Hannon 9-9	**S Hitchcott**
3	(7) 0-50 **CLOUD ANGEL** 28 (P) A Watson 9-9	**J Bryan**
4	(3) 05-13 **PAPA RICCO** 30 S P C Woods 9-8	**B Loughnane (3)**
5	(4) 3-442 **KHAL** 26 Charlie Johnston 9-8	**O Stammers**
6	(6) 006- **ROBUSTO** 272 Sir M Prescott 9-2	**L Morris**
7	(2) 6-650 **QUIZLET** 23 (B) M Gillard 8-13	**R Hornby**

7-4 Robusto, 7-2 Khal, 4-1 Papa Ricco, 6-1 Absolute Queen, 8-1 Cloud Angel, 10-1 Graham, 66-1 Quizlet.

8.40 Handicap (£5,888: 1m 6f) (10)

1	10-12 **SEAL OF SOLOMON** 19 (V,D) E Dunlop 4-9-10	**C Planas (5)**
2	03141 **CRESCENT LAKE** 22 (D) G L Moore 6-9-9	**T P Queally**
3	0/412 **BASHFUL BOY** J30 (P,BF) D Pipe 7-9-9	**R Hornby**
4	0600- **SKY POWER** 236 R Stephens 6-9-7	**D Keenan**
5	521-6 **PERCY JONES** 120 M Loughnane 4-9-7	**B Loughnane (3)**
6	1006- **SONGO** 199 (H,CD) M Harris 7-9-7	**A Keeley (5)**
7	05-40 **WILDERNESS** 22 (B,CD) Seamus Mullins 8-9-6	**G Downing**
8	3-400 **WHIMSY** 15 (P,C) A Balding 4-9-4	**W Carver (3)**
9	53-15 **CLARITUDO** 15 (D) Harry Eustace 4-9-3	**Kaiya Fraser (7)**
10	5-430 **CAPSTAN** 21 (H) Mrs L Richards 4-8-12	**W Carson**

11-4 Crescent Lake, 4-1 Bashful Boy, 9-2 Seal Of Solomon, 5-1 Claritudo, 8-1 Percy Jones, 10-1 Whimsy, 12-1 Songo, 20-1 Wilderness.

Curragh — selected
Thunderer

3.40 Royal Scotsman
Going: good **Draw:** no advantage — **Racing TV**

3.40 Irish 2,000 Guineas — ITV4
(Group 1: 3-Y-O: £290,000: 1m) (11)

1	(11) 1043- **AGE OF KINGS** 310 (BF,C) A P O'Brien 9-2	**J A Heffernan**
2	(5) 36-00 **ALEXANDER JOHN** 41 (T) L Comer 9-2	**N M Crosse**
3	(10) 13-25 **BOLD DISCOVERY** 26 J Harrington 9-2	**W J Lee**
4	(4) 21-10 **CAIRO** 63 (BF,CD) A P O'Brien 9-2	**W M Lordan**
5	(6) 31-20 **CHARYN** 21 R Varian (UK) 9-2	**D Egan**
6	(8) 41-34 **GALERON** 21 (C) C Hills (UK) 9-2	**C T Keane**
7	(2) 31-42 **HI ROYAL** 21 (D) K Ryan (UK) 9-2	**O Murphy**
8	(3) 51-11 **PADDINGTON** 26 (CD) A P O'Brien 9-2	**R L Moore**
9	(9) 321-3 **PROUD AND REGAL** 20 (BF,C,D) Donnacha O'Brien 9-2	**G M Ryan**
10	(1) 0-1 **QUAR SHAMAR** 43 (D) J Harrington 9-2	**S Foley**
11	(7) 152-3 **ROYAL SCOTSMAN** 21 P & O Cole (UK) 9-2	**J P Spencer**

15-8 Royal Scotsman, 4-1 Hi Royal, 9-2 Paddington, 6-1 Proud And Regal, 10-1 Galeron, Cairo, 16-1 Age Of Kings, Charyn.

Thunderer's choice: Royal Scotsman was a fine third in the 2000 Guineas at Newmarket **Dangers:** Paddington, Hi Royal

Course specialists

Cartmel: Trainers J McConnell, 4 winners from 15 runners, 26.7%; J Moffatt, 28 from 132, 21.2%. **Jockeys** Charlotte Jones, 23 winners from 72 rides, 31.9%; A P Heskin, 3 from 10, 30%.

Chester: Trainers D & C Kubler, 3 from 5, 60%; J Camacho, 6 from 17, 35.3%. **Jockeys** A Farragher, 4 from 12, 33.3%; H Davies, 4 from 20, 20%.

Ffos Las: Trainers B Pauling, 12 from 40, 30%; J Snowden, 10 from 35, 28.6%. **Jockeys** K K Woods, 8 from 31, 25.8%; L Morgan, 5 from 22, 22.7%.

Goodwood: Trainers M Dods, 3 from 4, 75%; C Appleby, 16 from 56, 28.6%. **Jockeys** J Doyle, 15 from 92, 16.3%; J Mitchell, 6 from 37, 16.2%.

Haydock Park: Trainers J & T Gosden, 12 from 43, 27.9%; R Beckett, 23 from 87, 26.4%. **Jockeys** W Buick, 17 from 63, 27%; N Callan, 5 from 19, 26.3%.

Salisbury: Trainers Sir M Prescott, 7 from 17, 41.2%; W Haggas, 14 from 38, 36.8%. **Jockeys** C Planas, 4 from 9, 44.4%; J Bryan, 4 from 18, 22.2%.

York: Trainers J Horton, 3 from 5, 60%; J & T Gosden, 12 from 44, 27.3%. **Jockeys** J Crowley, 13 from 85, 15.3%; P-L Jamin, 3 from 20, 15%.

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Bath

Going: firm (good to firm in places)

1.40 (1m 2f 37yd) 1, **Ajyad** (K T O'Neill, 15-8); 2, Miss Dolly Rocker (7-4 fav); 3, Ala Kaifi (6-1). 5 ran. Nk, 4½l. Alice Haynes.

2.15 (1m 2f 37yd) 1, **Jimmy Mark** (K T O'Neill, 11-2); 2, Pink Lily (2-1 fav); 3, Star Sprite (5-2). 7 ran. ¾l, 2¼l. W S Kittow.

2.50 (5f 10yd) 1, **Mayo Neighs** (Rob Hornby, 11-1); 2, Mashadi (10-11 fav); 3, Toca Madera (6-1). 10 ran. NR: Fiddler's Elbow. Nk, ¾l. R M Beckett.

3.25 (5f 160yd) 1, **Redredrobin** (Josephine Gordon, 11-2); 2, Granary Queen (4-1); 3, Coup De Force (7-2). 9 ran. Nk, 1l. M S Saunders.

4.00 (5f 160yd) 1, **My Delilah** (Billy Loughnane, 100-30); 2, Desert Illusion (8-1); 3, Flying Barty (3-1 fav). 10 ran. NR: Mucky Mulconry. 3½l, 2¾l. A Wintle.

4.30 (5f 160yd) 1, **Savalas** (Finley Marsh, 9-2); 2, Jacquelina (10-1); 3, Thank The Lord (18-1). 11 ran. ½l, 1¼l. A Wintle.

5.05 (5f 160yd) 1, **We're Reunited** (Kevin Stott, 6-1); 2, Reckon I'm Hot (22-1); 3, Fact Or Fable (11-1). 10 ran. NR: Q Twenty Boy. Hd, ¾l. M Blake.

5.35 (1m) 1, **My Ambition** (Rob Hornby, 14-1); 2, Mabre (100-30); 3, Havana Goldrush (100-30). 8 ran. NR: Revolutionary Man. 2½l, ½l. D J Coakley.

6.05 (1m 2f 37yd) 1, **Upstart Crow** (Miss Teagan Padgett, 7-2); 2, Heritage Valentino (5-1); 3, Zikada Zayin (20-1). 10 ran. 6l, 13l. James Owen.

Placepot: £28.90. Quadpot: £7.80.

Goodwood

Going: good (good to firm in places)

1.50 (6f) 1, **Barnwell Boy** (Oisin Murphy, 5-1); 2, Packard (7-2 fav); 3, Moyet (10-1). 11 ran. 4½l, 2¾l. Charlie Johnston.

2.25 (1m) 1, **Sudden Ambush** (Oisin Murphy, 15-2); 2, Choisya (14-1); 3, Seductive Power (12-1). 11 ran. ns, 1¼l. A M Balding.

3.00 (1m 1f 197yd) 1, **Araminta** (T E Whelan, 15-2); 2, Understated (15-2); 3, Secret Solace (8-1). 11 ran. 1½l, nk. H Candy.

3.35 (7f) 1, **Ropey Guest** (T P Queally, 4-1); 2, Nizaaka (3-1 fav); 3, Ernie's Valentine (12-1). 9 ran. 3½l, hd. G G Margarson.

4.10 (1m 3f 44yd) 1, **Gregory** (R Havlin, 4-7 fav); 2, Klondike (11-2); 3, Hadrianus (11-2). 6 ran. 3l, ¾l. J & T Gosden.

4.45 (5f) 1, **Angle Land** (Hayley Turner, 9-2); 2, Lihou (5-1); 3, Dream Composer (5-4 fav). 6 ran. ¾l, 1¼l. R M H Cowell.

5.20 (2m) 1, **First Emperor** (R Havlin, 6-1); 2, Hydroplane (17-2); 3, Diamond Bay (12-1). 11 ran. 2½l, 2¾l. J Ryan.

Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £6,776.09 carried forward to Haydock today.
Placepot: £811.60. Quadpot: £22.90.

Haydock Park

Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.05 (1m 2f 42yd) 1, **Spirit Of The Bay** (R Kingscote, 17-2); 2, Maghlaak (11-10 fav); 3, Thunder Max (15-2). 7 ran. 1½l, 2¼l. C G Cox.

2.40 (6f) 1, **Sarakana** (Callum Shepherd, 40-1); 2, Crooked Crown (22-1); 3, Chic Colombine (6-4 fav). 11 ran. 2¼l, ¾l. E De Giles.

3.15 (6f) 1, **Get Ahead** (R Kingscote, 7-4 fav); 2, Kape Moss (8-1); 3, Aramis Grey (10-1). 9 ran. 1¼l, nk. C G Cox.

3.50 (6f 212yd) 1, **Fallen Angel** (C Lee, 9-4 fav); 2, Lady Of Leisure (9-2); 3, Queen's Reign (7-2). 7 ran. 1¾l, 2¾l. K R Burke.

4.25 (7f 212yd) 1, **Zouzanna** (R Kingscote, 10-11 fav); 2, Prisha (28-1); 3, Loddon (16-1). 14 ran. 2l, 7l. R Charlton.

5.00 (7f 212yd) 1, **Pearl Eye** (David Egan, 9-2); 2, Aurora Dawn (8-15 fav); 3, Vegas Jack (14-1). 9 ran. ½l, 1l. Darryll Holland.

5.30 (1m 2f 42yd) 1, **Dog Fox** (N Callan, 7-4 fav); 2, Tremendous Times (11-2); 3, Burglar's Dream (14-1). 9 ran. 5½l, 1½l. E A L Dunlop.

Placepot: £15.20. Quadpot: £5.00.

Pontefract

Going: good to firm (good in places)

6.25 (1m 6yd) 1, **Westernesse** (Jason Watson, 5-1); 2, Garden Oasis (20-1); 3, Shimmering Sands (18-1). 11 ran. 1¼l, nk. D O'Meara.

6.55 (5f 3yd) 1, **Quandary** (Callum Rodriguez, 9-1); 2, Caesars Pearl (4-1); 3, Oneforsue (3-1 fav). 9 ran. 1¼l, 1l. E Bethell.

7.25 (6f) 1, **Muqtahem** (P J McDonald, 3-1); 2, Expert Choice (8-1); 3, There's No Limit (13-2). 6 ran. ¾l, 2½l. G Boughey.

7.55 (1m 4f 5yd) 1, **Carrigillihy** (D Allan, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Unplugged (9-2); 3, Wagga Wagga (9-2). 8 ran. ns, 2¾l. T D Easterby.

8.25 (1m 2f 5yd) 1, **A Shining Moon** (G Lee, 25-1); 2, Ragosina (13-2); 3, Dancing Gypsy (9-4 fav). 11 ran. NR: Different Tone. 1l, 1¼l. P T Midgley.

8.55 (5f 3yd) 1, **Ventura Express** (D Nolan, 7-2); 2, Some Nightmare (10-1); 3, Vince Lombardi (Evens fav). 6 ran. 3¼l, hd. P T Midgley.

Placepot: £346.10. Quadpot: £30.70.

Worcester

Going: good (good to firm in places)

5.40 (2m 110yd ch) 1, **Opening Bid** (Bryan Carver, 6-4 fav); 2, Rocambolas (11-2); 3, Etincelle Artiste (22-1). 7 ran. NR: Duke Of Luckley. 2¼l, 11l. C J Down.

6.10 (2m 4f ch) 1, **Courtland** (S Bowen, 5-4 fav); 2, Balko Saint (3-1); 3, Umndeni (6-1). 5 ran. NR: Sholsang. 7½l, 25l. P Bowen.

6.40 (2m Flat) 1, **Jefe Triunfo** (H Cobden, 7-4); 2, Footloose Man (4-1); 3, Jitterbug Geordie (11-10 fav). 4 ran. NR: Genovese, Platenium, The Gambler. 4¾l, 25l. C Gordon.

7.10 (2m 7f hdle) 1, **Ajp Kingdom** (C Brace, 1-4 fav); 2, Court Master (100-30); 3, Barbarian (25-1). 5 ran. 16l, 36l. F O'Brien.

7.40 (2m 7f hdle) race cancelled.

8.10 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Faerie Cutlass** (David Bass, 16-1); 2, Mrs Kinsella (6-1); 3, Whenthepennydrops (4-1). 11 ran. NR: Queens Fortune. ¾l, ½l. K C Bailey.

8.40 (2m hdle) 1, **Bluebella** (Finn Lambert, 5-1); 2, Boundsy Boy (3-1 fav); 3, Royal Max (4-1). 11 ran. NR: Ambassador. 6l, 1½l. T Lacey.

Placepot: £15.10.
Quadpot: £7.60.

The German club offering elite football for nothing

Owen Slot
Chief Sports Writer



Fresh in from Düsseldorf is this new addition to the human rights agenda. We have a right to food and water, to education, to healthcare and the more you go on, of course, the more complicated the debate becomes. But in Düsseldorf, they are taking it all the way to football. In Düsseldorf, you have a right to free football.

Football is good for the soul. Football is a great distraction. Football is an entertainment. Football brings your community together. Hey, if you are reading these pages, you don't need an explainer. You understand anyway. So if football is the people's game, why shouldn't it be for all the people, and for free?

That's what they asked themselves at Fortuna Düsseldorf, sitting sixth in Bundesliga 2. Football as a community event doesn't have to sound quaint and of another century. And the further they pursued the argument, the more they warmed to it. "Not everybody can afford football and a football stadium experience any more," Alexander Jobst, the chief executive, tells me. "Our conviction is that football belongs to everyone." And that is a sentiment that is hard not to like.

Fulham fans have been up in arms of late because next season they'll have a set of season tickets that are the most expensive in the Premier League. Maybe they should quit their tawdry complaints about price hikes and start campaigning against the fact that there is a price at all.

More from Jobst. Fortuna plan to have three matches next season where every ticket is free. The pledge in the next two or three seasons is to have free entry for all 17 home league games.

In the process, they will lose over £7 million of gate receipts a season. No problem. They took their proposal to the city's business sector and whistled up some new sponsors. It obviously helps if you are based in a huge commercial hub, but they now have a €45 million (about £39 million) pot that, over five years, will allow their citizens to watch their city's football team for free.

"We would not have got these companies on board without our new way," Jobst says. That is why he can claim that "we are doing football business in a different way, but it is still football business with the main objective of becoming successful". The last time Fortuna were in the Bundesliga was three seasons ago but they couldn't envisage a way back up again. They could only see the polarisation of football wealth, with the richer clubs accelerating further off ahead and leaving them trailing. "And so we said: 'If we want to be a first division club, we have to think completely differently," Jobst says.

The stadium, the Merkur Spiel-Arena, has a 54,600-seat capacity. This season it's been getting around 28,000 — which is a decent crowd at that level, but just imagine when it is full. And then just imagine how much they'll be making from matchday takings. Plus the extra sponsor revenue.

"It's something new," Jobst says. "It gives us a chance and the chance is higher than the risk." In other words, it works from an ethical standpoint and it's worth a stab as a business model too.

More on the ethics. Twenty per cent of all income will go to the women's and youth teams and 10 per cent on grassroots and social initiatives and sustainable projects.



And it's not as if the club's owners can change tack overnight because the only owners are the members themselves. All 27,000. In the Bundesliga, the 50+1 ownership rule means that a majority share of each club is owned by its club members. At Fortuna, they have gone the whole hog and made it 100 per cent member-owned. In other words, the members are not customers, they are the directors and there is a voting system that allows them their say.

So they will never find themselves, like Manchester United fans, not knowing who will own their club next week or the week after and what they will do with it. They will never be like Manchester City fans or Newcastle United fans, whose club is a soft-power trophy for a petrodollar state. Nor will they find themselves, like the majority of Premier League fans: in the hands of American ownership, a commodity buffeted by market forces, the best time to buy a striker, the optimum price next season for a season ticket and the best time to sell the entire club.

So it's not a case of who is right here and who is wrong. Everyone can make up their own minds. Premier League clubs did years ago, they pushed their pursuit of investment with an urgency born of the knowledge that if they didn't, they would only get left behind.

Yet when Jobst enters the debate from a point of view of "the direction of football business" and the European Super League discussions and the Champions League reforms and concludes that "for the biggest sport in the world, we have a responsibility to think about where it goes in the future" — then maybe he has a point worth listening to.

Just to clarify, he doesn't want to be seen to be preaching from the mountain tops. He realises that the Dusseldorf model has a decent chance of working primarily because of the commercial might of the city. But he has enjoyed, as he says, "putting a stone in the water" and seeing how other clubs have watch the ripples with such interest. When Fortuna get their promotion back to the German top flight, he expects Premier League clubs to come knocking and asking questions too.

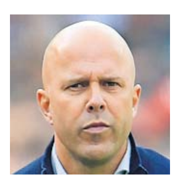
Back to Fulham. You can only sympathise with them. Their tickets used to be comparatively low priced. They put up the prices. Who didn't? And it was only for a certain section of the ground and if people are prepared to pay, then that was what they were worth, right?

But remember, on Sunday, the last day of the Premier League season, there will be about half a million punters going through the turnstiles who were able to pay what the tickets were worth and untold others who weren't. And maybe the last day of the season is an appropriate time to ask: what do we want our football to stand for and who should be able to watch it?

FREDERIC SCHEIDEMANN/GETTY IMAGES



Düsseldorf plan to offer free tickets for three matches next season, a policy in contrast to that of Fulham's Khan, below



● Just to clear up a family matter. Apologies to the number of Tottenham Hotspur fans who have been in touch asking if I might have any influence over whether my namesake Arne Slot was coming to rescue the shambles at White Hart Lane. Certainly there are not enough Slots in English football and cousin Arne is only to be encouraged. Maybe he thought the Spurs job an insurmountable challenge.

As for the family connection, my own lineage can be traced back to an Amsterdam shopkeeper, Wolf Slot, in the early 19th century, so I am claiming Arne as family. I was reading this week that Arne has a "charismatic charm", so yes, that's the DNA check complete. When he does finally arrive in the Premier League, he will be expected for family Christmases and summer holidays. He just needs a more achievable football mission to bring him here.

Nowell, a wing who had it all

Rugby news moves so fast we never really paused to record the fact that Jack Nowell has played his last game for England. There is a "probably" here, because the 30-year-old is going to play for a French club, La Rochelle, rendering him ineligible for England under the RFU's policy on players based outside the Gallagher Premiership. He may be back when his contract is up and he may, then, be challenging for England again.

Yet he has weighed up the situation and made the decision to miss the World Cup and that tells you quite a lot in itself, and what we know about thirtysomethings moving to France is that they tend to like it. Iain Balshaw, Simon Shaw and Jamie Noon all enjoyed it so much they never came back. Balshaw now has a French passport, and is thus officially the only Frenchman to have won the World Cup.

So this may seem a bit previous, but the record somewhere has to note what a marvellous and often original international wing Nowell was, what an extraordinary evader and breaker of tackles, plus what a great ambassador he was, how wide was his popularity and how he represented himself, his sport and his country in a way that was so authentic.

It is tempting to dwell on his injury record and wonder what more there might have been, but his legacy was that he contributed everything that he could possibly give. That was kind of the way he went into every collision. To use the cliché: he always put it all out there on the field. That is a large part of the reason why he was so much of a pleasure to watch.

THE TIMES
Saturday May 27 2023



How to keep your marriage hot

Plus Wine calories: are you drinking too many?

Weekend

Travel
Starts on page 37



I'm having my second surrogate baby

By Sophie Beresiner

Sophie Beresiner with her daughter in 2021

Get the barbecue out

Tom Aikens fires up his grill



Perfect Puglia

The 24 best places to stay this summer



Surrogacy and motherhood — my second time around



Sophie Beresiner's daughter wanted a sibling — and her wish is about to come true

My daughter started lodging her requests about six months ago. "Mummy, I want to be a big sister, OK?" Of course she has this singular understanding of my role in her life as Facilitator of All Things. But giving her "Spaghetti for dinner, Mummy!" or "Pink shoes! PINK!" is consistently achievable, in a way that another successful surrogacy journey is not. Granted she's only three, so she doesn't quite grasp how she got here yet, let alone how her parents might feel about doing it all over again. As it happens, we are back on that journey, although after the epic four-year mission to meet our daughter, M, it took us a fair amount of deep-digging (and selective amnesia) to get back in the ring. Thank goodness we did, because, M, we do have some good news for you. A baby is coming — quite soon, actually.

Now that I am three years into mothering M, the story of my daughter before us meeting has been crunched into fragments. I discovered my breast cancer treatment had left me infertile at the age of 36, so we turned to IVF treatment with donor eggs abroad. We tried and failed to get pregnant five times over the course of a year and a half, but we were determined to keep going because it was unfathomable to imagine the rest of our lives without the family we had always wished for.

Of course, this was not without heartache, some severe emotional and physical strain, and near financial crisis that cost several times our joint income, but we don't dwell. We can't, because M happened in the end, in the way she was always going to, so now no other outcome is imaginable. It wouldn't be me carrying her, but an incredible, altruistic surrogate instead; someone else volunteering to take my place in this most basic, vital human function. It took extensive research, a legal education in the nuances of surrogacy from one country to the next, another remortgage and a route around the world from IVF clinics in Russia and America. And then, four failed surrogacy attempts later, a return to the UK, where our happy ending happened. Our eventual surrogate, Rebecca, found us (through my writing in this paper, in fact), offered us one last chance, and by some miracle it worked. Our eighth attempt, Rebecca's first surrogacy journey, our last available embryo, and then boom! Our daughter. Longed-for parenthood. We took the very long way round, but we got there in the end.

I am definitely still learning what surrogacy looks like out the other side, but I suspect it is almost exactly the same at this point as any other route to parenthood. We have experienced the terrible twos — they started before and continue long after. M challenges us as much as she makes us laugh, melt, beam with pride, tear our hair out on a daily basis. We are obsessed with our daughter, we want to anticipate and provide her with everything she needs, but it was only once we met her that the thought of a sibling became even a glimmer on the horizon.

Everyone has their own reasons for any shape of their family, but it felt important for ours, and for M, to put ourselves back there and go through it all over again, for an unknown outcome. We want her to be the happiest she can be, and we have to consider that we started this family a little later than most (my husband and I are both 43). We won't be around for ever, and the brutality of that really hits home when you have more than yourselves to consider — it feels imperative that she also has more than ourselves to consider.

> Of people in the UK pursuing surrogacy, only about 12 per cent are doing it for a second child

But it's true that when we embarked on the first journey we never considered that there would be a second. I still feel that it will be impossible to love anything or anyone as much as I love her, but I hear that's normal, so we had already decided to work on your request, M, before you made it. And while we're not alone, we're certainly not common either. It's estimated that of the intended parents in the UK pursuing surrogacy, only about 12 per cent are doing it for a second child.

We met George, our second surrogate, through My Surrogacy Journey, a brilliant not-for-profit UK-based organisation that guided us through every stage of the process, from finding an egg donor to legal advice and the psychological counselling that is required in the UK before surrogacy. The key difference to last time around is that we have somehow managed to let it all happen somewhere in the periphery of our lives, rather than aggressively taking centre stage.

That's largely down to M. She, our family life, the juggle of being a working parent are filling up every spare moment I might have had before to obsess. And purely because of her, it isn't an obsession this time. We went into it thinking, if it happens we'll be over the moon, but in an effort to anticipate and avoid some of the darker places we went to last time, we braced ourselves for failure. Failure wouldn't mean a black hole this time. It would be sad — of course it would — but ultimately it would mean concentrated affection and attention on this family that I am so lucky to have now.

It's also because of George, who has acted as a surrogate twice before. She has three grown-up children and was an incredibly welcome, calming influence when we met. This is already a world away from our first experience, when all four of us — me, Mr B, our surrogate Rebecca and her husband, Jack — were first-timers. Totally green, totally ignorant (although not for a lack of relentless research), and thus so deeply in it together. This time we have the benefit of experience, and therefore expertise, and I cannot tell you how soothing that is.



Part of why we tiptoed toward the starting line a second time was the fear of going through it all again. As wonderful and miraculous as the whole experience was, it was equally traumatic and unknown and therefore overwhelming. I haven't really known how to talk about this second experience for a reason I never imagined possible — it has basically been a bit "garden variety". Smooth, pleasant, gentle and progressive, and about as standard as a gestational altruistic surrogacy journey can get.

This time we're all veterans, and so once again we're in it together, just a different four this time. There has been no manic obsession with appointment dates and uterine lining measurements to the millimetre, or what combination of alternative therapies the internet suggests today. It's the surrogacy equivalent of that (incredibly irritating) bit of advice all infertile people are given at some point in their journey: "If you just relax and stop thinking about it, it'll happen."

And, well, it did! We had three embryos from new donor eggs of varying "grades" that I tried not to focus on because none were deemed "excellent". A few months ago we did an embryo transfer that I could only attend via video link from my hospital bed while I recovered from an operation, and at a time in George's IVF cycle that she felt was right, but wasn't technically optimal in terms of dates and measurements. We waited the requisite two weeks that felt way shorter than any of those other Two-Week Waits that came before it and prepared ourselves for a negative result, that inevitable second go that would be neither unexpected nor devastating. But when I got the call I sort of felt as if I'd dreamt it already. "It's good news: George is pregnant!"

I felt like I'd won a race that no one expected me to win except myself. My husband was sure we would have a negative result — a self-preservation exercise if ever I've seen one — whereas I had a strong urge to trust in George, in the universe giving us a break this time, and in the IVF odds that mean approximately a third of embryo transfers result in a positive outcome.

Now we are approaching our midsummer due date at an alarming pace. Alarming because time seems to be passing much faster this year than any other, and because I keep forgetting. This is a quirk of surrogacy — you don't live with a bump; there is no incremental visual reminder of your impending arrival, which, combined with the day-to-day parenting Business As Usual means I jolt myself with excitement and anxiety on a random basis, rather than to a consistent drumbeat of pregnancy. We told M on her third birthday because we knew it would be a gift, and she is

COVER AND BELOW: VICTORIA ADAMSON FOR SUNDAY TIMES STYLE; SOPHIE BERESINER/INSTAGRAM



Sophie Beresiner and, below, her daughter as a newborn

delighted that her parents came through for her. She reminds us every evening at bedtime: "I'm going to be a big sister, Mummy!" And it never gets old.

On top of all of this joy, I am constantly aware that I feel a creeping guilt I wasn't quite expecting. It comes in waves and is indiscriminate in its focus. Guilt for my daughter — I feel as if I'm cheating on her, or at least I will be soon. Guilt for this new baby that its conception was more like a background noise in our busy lives as opposed to the serialised story playing out in the lead-up to our first arrival. Guilt towards George, and this second experience as a whole — how have we even dared launch into something this huge with someone so wonderful, and have the audacity to allow daily life to creep in the way of our focus on this surrogacy journey and all of George's efforts?

There is also guilt about an entire community of people that I have been a part of for a long time — those who struggle to conceive, to start or to complete their family, to heal or move on from the heartache of infertility and baby loss. I am always aware that the relative ease of this particular second baby story, and the soon-to-be size of my family, makes me something of a trigger to my own demographic, as well as a voice.

I'll always be someone who fought to overcome my infertility, but I count myself lucky that I am both more and less than that now. Now, I am simply a parent.

***The Mother Project: Making it to Parenthood the (Very) Long Way Round* by Sophie Beresiner is published by Harper Collins (£14.99)**

Do you really know how many calories you are drinking?

An average drinker has 18 units of alcohol a week — that's about 75,000 calories a year. Peta Bee reports

We all know that alcohol is bad for our health and indeed our waistlines. But a new survey shows that we may not realise just how easy it is to put on weight — more than a stone in a year — from what we might consider to be moderate drinking.

Findings from a survey of 2,000 people by DrinkWell, an online drinks retailer, indicate that the average consumption for UK drinkers is about 18 units a week, a figure that tallies with estimates by the charity Alcohol Change UK. "Most research suggests that for adults who drink, the UK average intake is 18 units a week," says Andrew Misell, a spokesman for the charity. DrinkWell has also calculated that many UK adults are consuming 75,000 calories from alcoholic drinks alone each year — the same number of calories that you would get from eating 1,600 chicken nuggets, 127 Big Mac burgers or 328 Mars bars.

Misell, who has been researching the relationship between alcohol and weight gain for the charity for the past decade, says that many people underestimate the calories in alcohol. "In general, people are much more concerned about the calories from food than from liquids, including alcoholic drinks," he says. "Yet if you are worried about weight gain or are trying to reduce your weight by controlling calories, then you need to keep an eye on what you drink."

Among the worst — and most obvious — offenders is beer, with up to 219 calories in a pint of Stella Artois, equivalent to a slice of pizza, and 160 calories in a pint of John Smith's, the same amount as in a packet of salted crisps. A large glass of red wine (250ml), meanwhile, is about 210 calories, while a double gin & tonic could be about 200 calories. According to the NHS website, drinking five pints of lager a week equates to an additional 44,200 calories in a year — the same as eating 221 doughnuts.

Statistics from a recent National Diet and Nutrition Survey show that almost 10 per cent of all calories consumed by UK adult drinkers come from alcohol, yet Misell says that 82 per cent of people are unable to identify the correct number of calories in a standard pint.

"Research also shows that we tend not to reduce calories from food when we drink, so the energy we consume from alcohol is almost always extra," says Emma Catterall, head of research for the charity Drinkaware. However, calorie content is just one of the reasons that alcohol contributes to an expanding waistline. "Unlike protein, carbohydrates and fats, alcohol cannot be stored in the liver," says Eli Brecher, a registered nutritionist. "Drinking large quantities results in your body prioritising the breaking down of alcohol over its other duties such as burning calories and the result is that your metabolism slows and calorie-burning is less efficient."

Alcohol also produces the double whammy of stimulating appetite and lowering inhibitions, which can reduce your willpower to resist snacking and cause you to overeat. "It changes the way your body metabolises food and it encourages fat to be stored around the belly," the dietician Dr Linia Patel says.

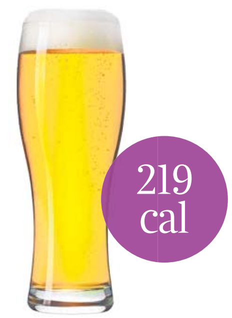
Ale has a reputation for producing the "beer-belly" paunch, but too much of any drink will do so too. "It's not the beer itself that is linked to increased waist circumference but the excess calories that come with drinking large amounts of it," Brecher says. "Drinking too much of any type of alcohol can have the same effect on your middle."

It's not the first time we have been warned that even a moderate drinking habit can head straight for the belly and hips. Last year the authors of a large study involving 14 million men and 12 million women warned that even a light daily tipple can be more damaging to the waistline than many suspect. According to Dr Hye Jung Shin of South Korea's National Medical Centre, men who drank just half a small glass of wine or a quarter of a pint of beer a day were 10 per cent more prone to obesity and its related health problems, including high blood pressure and metabolic syndrome, a cluster of conditions such as high blood sugar, cholesterol and an increased risk of heart attacks and strokes.

Men who consumed more than that — one or two glasses of wine or up to a pint of beer daily — were 25 per cent more likely to be obese than men who never drank. An occasional drink offered some protection against metabolic syndrome for women, but they didn't escape the consequences for their waistlines, with just half a small glass of wine a day increasing the risk of obesity by 9 per cent and two small glasses by 22 per cent.

Despite this, Bahee van de Boor, a dietician, says we don't need to cut out alcohol completely to stay slim. "If you enjoy a couple of beers or a glass of wine with friends at a barbecue this weekend, that's fine," she says. "White wine, and spirits like vodka or gin with soda, are lower-calorie options than cider and beer." A glass of sauvignon blanc has fewer calories than one of chardonnay (see Jane MacQuitty's wine column on page 13 for more lower-alcohol wines). "Trying to stick to no more than 14 units a week is recommended for keeping alcohol and calories to a healthy manageable level," van de Boor adds.

Brecher also suggests pouring a smaller glass of wine and topping it up with a large splash of sparkling water or ice cubes. "You'll slash the calories, stay hydrated and make your drink last longer," she says.



PINT OF STELLA ARTOIS



GLASS OF MALBEC (175ml)



APEROL SPRITZ (150ml)



MOJITO (230ml)



GLASS OF ROSÉ (175ml)



SINGLE GIN AND TONIC (175ml)



MARGARITA (168ml)



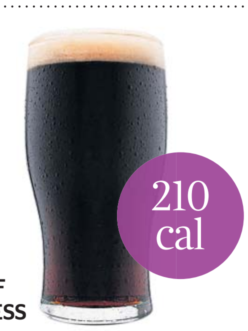
SINGLE TEQUILA SHOT (25ml)



GLASS OF CHARDONNAY (175ml)



GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE (125ml)



PINT OF GUINNESS



PINT OF PALE ALE (BREWDOG)

All calories approximate

Fire up the grill this weekend

The top chefs' secrets to making your barbecue as simple or as fancy as you like

Campfire barbecue
Tom Aikens

There have been campaigns over the years to ditch the phrase "man the barbecue" because it is unspeakably sexist. "Oh my God," Tom Aikens says, rolling his eyes, thrusting his hand into the fire and turning over a burning log. "I'm not going to comment, otherwise I will get into trouble."

I ask if the cliché holds true in his household. Does his wife ever tend the barbecue? "Why should she? She's got me," he says with a mischievous twinkle.

Aikens, 53, is in my back garden and very much in his element, no more so than when I fetch a maul from my shed for him to splice an oversized log. The sun is out, he has fire, he has an axe and he has a particularly generous looking côte de boeuf, or ribeye on the bone, and a couple of other steaks. The idea is that the chef of Michelin-starred Muse (seven-course tasting menu: £170) in Belgravia is going to teach me the most basic form of cooking known to man: meat on fire.

"My restaurant is fine dining and there is an assumption I like cooking that food at home," he says. "But chefs really love the sort of rawness of cooking on an open fire. I always have done. There's nothing better than a basic barbecue — it creates maximum flavour in a simple way."

He shows me a picture of his barbecue set-up at his weekend home near Banbury, Oxfordshire. I was expecting a swanky Big Green Egg, one of those fashionable ceramic outdoor ovens that cost up to £1,895. He admits he enjoys cooking on them, but at home his barbecue is half an upturned oil drum — "with a shitty mesh grill from Homebase. Nothing beats the rough and tumble of that" — on which he is charring asparagus spears, corn on the cob and chicken drumsticks.

Aikens is keen to show me that no fancy kit is needed. For the generation that has embraced wild camping and wild swimming, this is wild cooking, something that can be done on a beach, at a picnic — or some north London patio steps.

He has brought his own kit: a small £19.90 fire basket from Amazon, plus a grill. The contraption is the size of a waste paper basket, raised 30cm off the ground thanks to a basic stand. I am dubious it is up to the job, but he says he recently cooked dinner for 15 workers from the Laphroaig distillery on Islay — he is the whisky brand's UK ambassador — using the same kit. "It was raining but, yeah, it worked. Islay is so beautiful."

He puts in a couple of logs of olive wood, and with a firelighter (yes) and a bit of kindling, waits for the fire to rage. The advantage of cooking over fire, he says, is the intense heat you can get: 300C — hotter than an oven or stove. "Of course, the mistake people make is forgetting how hot that is, and insisting on cooking everything for 15 minutes. Then you end up with charred, black sausages."

His top tip for chicken drumsticks is to partially pre-cook them first. "They're quite dense meat and it's also on the bone so it does take a little bit longer to cook. If you can, before you go to the beach, put them in a pan of water with some salt, bring them up to simmer, then take them off and leave to cool."

He likes to brush them with a barbecue sauce consisting of ketchup, French's American yellow mustard ("it's a bit sweeter than Dijon"), honey, and a mixture of smoked paprika and cayenne.

After a while the logs in the basket have burnt down and are throwing off lots of heat, but there are still flames flickering. "It's fine," he insists, sensing my nervousness. I put the first of our steaks on, two warm-up ribeyes before we get to the star côte de boeuf. He's rubbed them with a little bit of oil and lots of salt and black pepper. Crucially, the meat has been sitting on my kitchen island all morning. "Never, never cook direct from the fridge," Aikens says. "Anything from sausages to chicken, leave up to three-plus hours. I always do."

Within seconds, the barbecue flares up and I start to flap. "It's fine," he says again, in his best meditation teacher voice. "Listen to that sizzle. It's just the fat dripping off." But the flames, aren't they an issue? "Don't be scared. That's flavour." The smoke and the occasional direct hit of flame on fat is creating a delicious crust.

He checks the meat almost continually, adjusting it and turning it over every 30 to 40 seconds, saying this is the best way to ensure an even cook, and avoiding any over-charring. The ribeyes take no more than four minutes above the heat of the flaring fire and are then left to rest on a board. With the côte de boeuf, "once you've got the caramelisation, charred the shit out of it, move it to the cooler part of the fire to let it carry on cooking". He drags it to the side of the grill.

While we wait for it to cook — about 20 minutes or so after the flame grilling — we try the steaks, which are from a belted Galloway cow. The meat is spectacularly good, cooked to a perfect medium rare with the fat melting. I need not have worried about the basic kit or flickering flames.

"You can cook anything on this," Aikens says. "I love cooking shellfish, particularly scallops, because you can cook them in a half shell. You just add a little bit of oil, a couple of knobs of butter, thinly sliced garlic and thyme. By the time it's cooked — two, three minutes — the butter has gone almost a beurre noisette, the garlic has fried, it's so damn tasty. That would be my last meal on earth. My death row meal."

Small things that might fall through a grill, such as razor clams or mussels, can be cooked on an oven tray directly over the flames, as if it were a plancha or hot plate. "You still get that flavour of the smoke."

As we pull the large steak from the barbecue, I jokingly ask whether he feels more manly. "I'd say I feel at home. I definitely do. I don't think there's anything as natural and human as cooking on an open fire."

Harry Wallop


Tom Aikens and Harry Wallop

Michelin star barbecue
Lisa Goodwin-Allen

If your efforts at barbecuing start and finish with a few sausages, you may feel there is nothing here for you. A top chef telling us how to create dinner table worthy dishes on a grill? Who has the time? But while Lisa Goodwin-Allen is one of those down-to-earth chefs who understands that not everyone wants to spend hours prepping their ingredients, she believes it's always worth upping your barbecue game.

Her number one tip? Learn how to control the heat and then you can treat your barbecue like an oven. "Once you master it," she says, "you can [barbecue] everything from starters to pudding."

Although Goodwin-Allen favours a Kamado Joe ceramic grill, "the basics are the same whatever you are cooking with". Start with good-quality charcoal, because it will burn slower and retain its heat longer, then create different temperature zones so that you can sear and colour food directly over the coals then move it to a cooler part to cook more slowly in indirect heat.

"Push your lit coals to the sides and place a foil tray in the middle," she says. "That will catch the fat that drops off your meat and stop flare-ups, and you can then use that fat to add flavour to a vinaigrette, or to cook some potatoes."

As to what to grill, the answer is anything and everything. At the Stafford London, where Goodwin-Allen oversees the summer barbecue season in the courtyard, the menu includes lamb pastrami with potato flatbread, cedar plank salmon with fennel salad and citrus crème fraîche, curried cauliflower steak with toasted almonds and pomegranate seeds, and spiced rum-glazed pineapple.

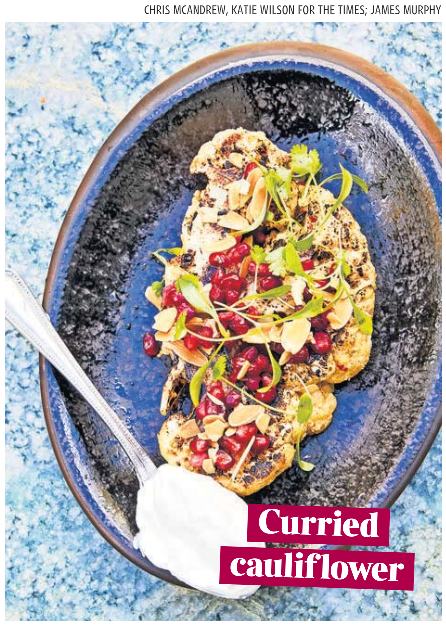
"Using a cedar plank sounds a bit 'cheffy', but it adds to the flavour of anything you cook on it. Buy an untreated piece of cedar and soak it in water for 24 hours so


Lisa Goodwin-Allen

— barbecue season is open

CHRIS MCANDREW, KATIE WILSON FOR THE TIMES; JAMES MURPHY


Seared beef


Curried cauliflower


Grilled pineapple

it doesn't burn. Then marinate your fish — say, sea bass with chilli, coriander, ginger, soy, salt and sugar — and cook it on the plank over indirect heat for 25 minutes."

The trick with cooking a large joint of meat is to brine it first, typically with a 10 per cent solution of salt to water, plus whatever aromatics you want to add. "It keeps the moisture within the meat and seasons it at the same time. I brine whole chickens for two hours with the salt solution, plus garlic and lemon, maybe a few herbs and spices — thyme rosemary, pepper, coriander — to give it some oomph."

You can inject more flavour into a supermarket steak by marinating it for an hour or so beforehand. "One of my favourites is piri-piri seasoning with oil and lemon."

Fruit is another thing that cooks well on the barbecue. Goodwin-Allen loves to grill peaches directly on the bars as a fantastic addition to a salad, or the easiest pudding. "Put them halved in a foil container with a bit of muscovado sugar and a splash of rum or champagne, put the lid down and cook until they are soft. I like them with caramelised cream. Just add double cream to a small pan and cook it alongside the peaches and it will reduce and become slightly smoky and toffeeish."

thestaffordlondon.com
Tony Turnbull

Lisa's barbecue recipes

Beef picanha with chimichurri

Serves 4

Ingredients

1.2kg beef rump cap
300g pomegranate molasses
3 garlic cloves, peeled
1 chilli, finely chopped
50g parsley leaves
1½ tsp dried oregano
1 tbsp red wine vinegar
1 tbsp cider vinegar
1 tsp caster sugar
110g extra virgin olive oil

Method

1 A day before cooking, lightly score the fat on the rump cap and coat the beef in the pomegranate molasses. Wrap in clingfilm, keeping molasses in contact with the beef. Store in fridge overnight.
2 The next day, to make the chimichurri, chop the garlic, chilli and parsley leaves and place in a mixing bowl. Add and mix the oregano, vinegars, sugar and olive oil. Put aside for at least an hour to allow the flavours to infuse.
3 Remove the meat from the fridge at least an hour before you want to start cooking, until it's at room temperature.
4 Give all sides of the beef a good searing on the barbecue, then cook indirectly until the beef reaches a core temperature of 54C. Leave to rest for at least 15-20 min. Carve and serve with the chimichurri.

Curried cauliflower steak, toasted almonds, pomegranate, coriander

Serves 4

Ingredients

2 large cauliflowers
2 tbsp rapeseed oil
4 tbsp Greek yoghurt
1 tsp cumin powder
2 tsp coriander powder
1 tsp red chilli flakes
2 garlic cloves, grated
1 tbsp root ginger, finely grated
2 rosemary sprigs, chopped finely
Juice and zest of 1 lemon
Seeds from 1 pomegranate
20g flaked almonds, toasted
Half a bunch of coriander, leaves picked
Salt and pepper

Method

1 Remove the cauliflower leaves. Cut each one into four equal flat steaks, from the top of the cauliflower head to the bottom. Leave the core intact.
2 Mix the oil, yoghurt, cumin, coriander, red chilli flakes, garlic, ginger, rosemary, lemon juice and lemon zest in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper and rub over each cauliflower steak to fully cover. Marinate for at least 30 min.
3 Place each steak on to the barbecue, colour on both sides, turning every 3-4 min until just cooked (you should be able to slide a small knife through the core of the cauliflower). Remove from the grill and wrap in foil to rest.
4 To serve, garnish the top of each cauliflower with pomegranate seeds, toasted almonds and fresh coriander. Serve with extra Greek yoghurt.

Spiced rum-glazed pineapple

Serves 4

Ingredients

1 large pineapple
2 vanilla pods
2 tbsp muscovado sugar
2 tbsp maple syrup
4 tbsp rum
2 tsp ground cinnamon
3 Szechuan peppercorns, crushed
Quarter of a fresh chilli, finely diced
Vanilla ice cream, to serve

Method

1 Cut the pineapple in quarters lengthways. Cut the flesh away from the skin in one piece, leaving the skin intact, and cut out the core from each piece.
2 Mix the vanilla, sugar, maple syrup, rum, cinnamon, peppercorns and chilli in a bowl, add the pineapple flesh and coat well. Marinate for at least 30 min.
3 Put the marinated pineapple chunks back into their "skin boats" and grill skin-side down on the barbecue for 30-40 min over indirect heat.
4 To serve, discard the skins, cut the pineapples into four, add ice cream and a dusting of cinnamon.

Marinades, glazes, rubs and sauces

A glaze for chicken wings

Tom Kerridge's barbecue Korean-style glaze

Ingredients

80ml rice vinegar
60g caster sugar
50ml sriracha
50ml tomato ketchup
2 tbsp gochujang chilli paste
2 tbsp sesame oil
20g butter

Method

Put all the ingredients into a pan on the hob, bring to a simmer and cook for about 5 min, then take off the heat. Glaze six large cooked chicken wings and cook for a further 3-4 min, turning regularly, until slightly charred. Use any extra glaze to brush the wings once rested.

***Outdoor Cooking* by Tom Kerridge is published by Bloomsbury at £22**

Corn on the cob dressing

Josh Katz's whipped labneh, preserved lemon and harissa dressing

Ingredients

For the harrisa dressing
1 tsp lime juice
1 tsp ground cumin
1½ tbsp red wine vinegar
2 tbsp agave syrup (or honey)
2 tbsp harissa
100ml olive oil

For the whipped labneh
200g labneh
2 tbsp olive oil
Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
2 tbsp each finely chopped chives and dill
1 tbsp za'atar
Grated zest of 1 lime
Sea salt and ground black pepper



Method

Combine the lime juice, cumin, vinegar, agave syrup and harissa in a medium bowl and whisk in the olive oil gradually to emulsify. Season with salt and black pepper and set aside. Whip the labneh with the olive oil, lemon zest and juice in a medium bowl until light and airy. Don't make too far in advance or it will lose its aeration. Set aside.

Grill 4 corn cobs and transfer to a serving platter, season with salt and black pepper and smother in whipped labneh. Spoon the harissa dressing over the top. Garnish with chives and chopped dill, za'atar and lime zest. Serve warm.

***Berber&Q: On Vegetables* by Josh Katz is published by Octopus at £22**

Easiest seasoning for fish

Jack Stein's sea bass rub

Ingredients

2 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp five spice powder
Salt and black pepper

Method

While the barbecue is heating up, slash two sea bass three or four times down each side and rub with olive oil. Season well, inside and out, with the salt, five spice and pepper.

The barbecue sauce for everything (and it's great for vegans)

Richard Makin's gochujang barbecue sauce

Makes about 150g

Ingredients

3 tbsp gochujang chilli paste
2 tbsp dark soy sauce
2 tbsp liquid smoke
5 tbsp tomato ketchup
1 tsp garlic powder
2 tbsp maple or agave syrup

Method

Place all the ingredients in a small saucepan and bring to a simmer. Simmer for 4-5 min, then remove from the heat and allow to cool. Use straightaway, or transfer to a clean jar and store in the fridge for up to 3 weeks. The sauce should be smoky, hot and a bit funky.

***Anything You Can Cook, I Can Cook Vegan* by Richard Makin is published by Bloomsbury at £25.00**

Simple marinade for lamb chops

Amy Poon's hoisin sauce and garlic for lamb chops

Ingredients

8 tbsp hoisin sauce
4 tbsp yellow bean paste
8 cloves of minced garlic
3 tbsp lemon juice
3 tbsp sesame oil
½ tsp white pepper

Method

Mix all the ingredients and bathe 8 lamb chops (big, juicy, fatty ones, not trimmed cutlets) in the marinade for 2 hours minimum, but a lot longer if possible.

THE TIMES Saturday May 27 2023

Married sex 11 secrets of lasting

A survey has found that 7.30am is the best time for sex. The couples therapist Jean-Claude Chalmet says there are many more ways to keep long-term love thriving



Never mind morning breath. Research suggests that two thirds of couples in long-term relationships have the best sex at 7.30am as their energy levels are high and they are relaxed. If morning passion isn't viable for you, there are many other ways to boost your sex life. And much of the work happens outside the bedroom. From hugging often to understanding that sex doesn't always happen spontaneously, all these ingredients can have a powerful effect on a couple's love life. Jean-Claude Chalmet, a leading psychotherapist, explains how.

Not every encounter has to be earth-shattering

Good sex doesn't have to be great. Couples who have successful sex lives understand that not every encounter is a chandelier-shaker. Sometimes the act feels routine or unexceptional, and that's OK. It's more important to actually have the sex — it's the cement between the bricks of your relationship. In which form you have it doesn't always matter. Sometimes sex can be a one-way street, sometimes a quickie can do the trick. It's the closeness, the fact that it bonds you that's important. It shows you care and want to take care of each other.

Don't forget to flirt — however long you've been together

Giving each other the gift of attention that makes you both feel special and seen is important. The happy couples I encounter still flirt — even if they've been together for decades. A playful, private language connects two people in a way that is light-hearted yet profound. Flirting doesn't have to lead to something sexual; the point is that it might, which can add a charge of erotic potential to the dullest of days. Good sex starts long before we get to the bedroom.

Don't pick up your phone — have sex when you wake up

It's tempting to reach for your phone first thing, but the morning is the best time for sex, especially once you are past the child-rearing stage of life. The results of the survey of British adults published this week showed that most felt sex had "maximum benefit" in the morning — at 7.30am, to be precise. It's not such a surprise: we're likely to be at our friskiest in the morning. The sex hormones oestrogen and testosterone peak around this time, and no one is yet ground down by the day. To those who feel self-conscious about bad breath, there's a very simple solution involving toothpaste.

Look after your appearance

In my clinic I see couples where one partner makes the effort to be attractive, and the other, not so much. It's unreasonable to expect your partner to feel passionate about you when you can't be bothered with yourself. It's a form of social disrespect. We should want to make ourselves attractive to our partner and we should want to feel good about ourselves. Couples still having great married sex don't neglect themselves physically and may have invested in nose-hair clippers. Yes, you love each other, but we can't pretend that appearance is irrelevant when it comes to attraction. This isn't about body shape, unless it affects your mojo. Dim the lights if you must, but ban shame from the bedroom — life's too short to deny ourselves pleasure for pointless reasons. Thankfully, most people in midlife and beyond realise that. The point is, we always feel sexier if we take care of ourselves.

Quality is better than quantity. Don't worry about the lean times

All loving, successful long-term relationships have phases when sex is infrequent. But if sex is thrilling and satisfying and bonding when you do have it, you quickly forget the lean times. Quantity is an odd yardstick by which to measure your sex life. Good married sex happens when couples can be open with each other; when in fallow periods they talk, they don't become silent, resentful or judgmental. It's vulnerability and intimacy or the lack of it in a relationship that makes sex great or terrible. If couples communicate, sex is good, and in-between times are fine too because they remain intimate in other ways. It's only when sex is unsatisfactory and couples fester instead of talking that the sexless times last.

Hold hands and keep up other nonsexual physical contact

We can all spare a few minutes to connect with our partner. Twenty seconds after we start hugging we begin to produce oxytocin, the "cuddle hormone" — it softens us, makes us feel bonded and allows us to be closer. It's easy to fall out of the habit of holding hands or stroking your partner's arm or kissing when you part. These gestures feel superfluous, but in fact they are crucial. We don't always realise that we need this kind of touch, but hugs and kisses add to our wellbeing and relationship satisfaction. At least one research study (published in the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships) has shown that couples who touch each other more and are happy with the amount of touch they are receiving are usually more sexually satisfied and happier in their relationship.

> “If sex is thrilling and satisfying when you do have it, you'll forget about the lean times

Schedule sex — it doesn't have to be spontaneous

If you wait until you're both in the mood there's a strong chance you'll have precious little sex. Better to agree to your close encounters in advance. This doesn't have to be a timetable — just suggest it, for later or tomorrow. Or send a message and let the idea percolate. It's a myth that desire is more spontaneous than reactive. Especially in long-term relationships, it rarely springs stone cold out of nowhere and we're far more likely to feel in the mood once we're anticipating sex. Scheduling something is a way of prioritising it. What I regularly see in my clinic with long-term couples is that the woman has stopped wanting sex and the man feels this has nothing to do with him. If both partners see it as their responsibility to make sex enjoyable, they'll both want to put that "X" in the diary.

Spend more time in bed chatting

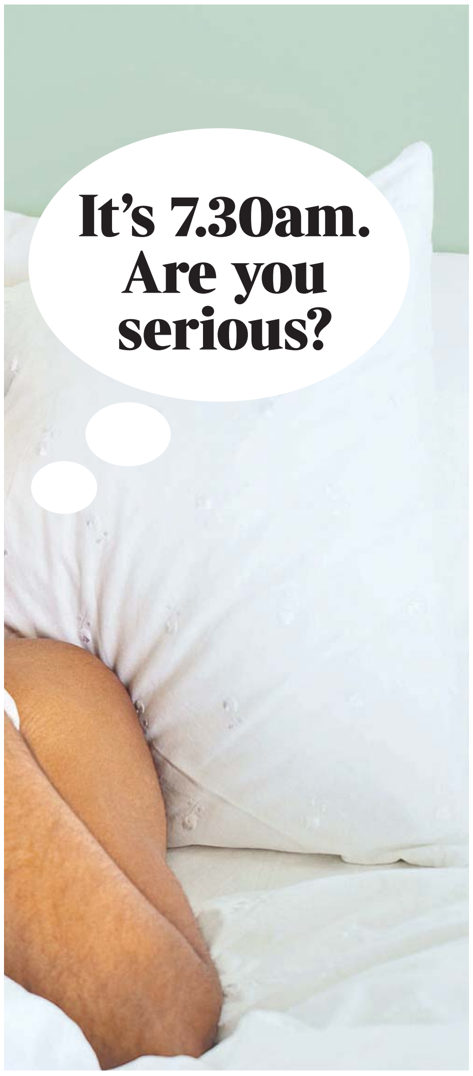
We have to create favourable conditions for intimacy, and it takes effort because there are endless distractions and sometimes we want solitude. To foster closeness, an energy-lite strategy for weary long-term couples is to spend more time in bed together. Synchronise your bedtime and make it earlier than normal. Don't leap out of bed first thing to exercise. Even if you're on your phones to begin with, you might move closer to share a cat video (or whatever it takes). Lying in bed together with not much on, just chatting, even if only for a few minutes, makes you feel relaxed and warm towards one other.

Learn how to manage rejection

You've suggested sex, and your partner says no because they're tired, or stressed, or don't feel like it. Unless there's something else going on — and most of us know when that is — take them at their word that it isn't personal. Be gracious. Remind yourself that while no one loves rejection, everyone experiences it. Anyone who sulks if their partner isn't in the mood makes it less likely they'll get a yes this week or the next. No one likes to be guilt-tripped or made to feel that they owe their partner sex.

lust

TOM MERTON/GETTY IMAGES



It shouldn't be one partner who always initiates sex

Couples often fall into a pattern where one partner initiates sex, and I know from couples I counsel in my clinic that it's often the man. Unless the sex is mechanical, conveyor-belt stuff, in which case no wonder his partner isn't making overtures, this shouldn't be the case. We should all be in charge of our own pleasure, and making the first move if you are in the mood rather than waiting to be asked is part of that. What if your partner doesn't ask, because they think you won't fancy it? We move perilously close to mind-reading territory. Then, because mind-reading doesn't work, no one gets what they want.

Therapy doesn't mean it's a crisis

If you aren't having sex, and it is because of your partner, I advocate brutal honesty. The conversation will be painful, but things could get better. However, a little help from a good therapist can be invaluable if you feel stuck — or if you fear that broaching a sensitive topic will get you nowhere, or make matters worse. Your relationship doesn't have to be in complete meltdown before you engage a professional to help you to break unhelpful patterns and better understand each other.

As told to Anna Maxted

The new boss of the world's biggest dating app talks to Katie Glass about how it is changing

KATIE WILSON FOR THE TIMES. HAIR AND MAKE-UP: LUCIE PEMBERTON



Faye Iosotaluno

I'm proud of Tinder. One day my daughter will be on it

I would swipe right on Faye Iosotaluno. Glossy-haired with red lipstick, she has a sleek image that befits her position as the new COO of an app that helped to fuel our "hot or not" culture, encouraging us to judge people by their looks. But there is far more to 43-year-old Iosotaluno than nice lipstick. A Harvard Business School MBA who has held senior roles at Match.com and Warner Bros, she is also a married mother of two daughters (aged seven and nine) who met her husband, a finance entrepreneur, long before dating-app culture arrived. "I went on my last first date when I was 19 years old, before Tinder was in the market, and I ended up marrying that person," she says with a laugh from her office in West Hollywood.

Tinder emerged in 2012. In two years a billion people had swiped left or right on it, reinventing dating for my generation of millennials, who were fascinated by the ability to suddenly date anyone nearby using the GPS on our phones. Having been loaded 530 million times since, it remains the biggest dating app in the world, hosting some three billion swipes a day. I was an early Tinder adopter — it made internet dating cool, although I vividly remember my first Tinder match-up, which culminated in us pitifully sharing a six-pack of lager in Trafalgar Square. Undeterred, along with my friends I embraced Tinder's possibilities, swiping through a decade of dates with builders, barristers, artists and tech boys on an app that led me on uncountable dates, a few one-night stands and trends like "Tinder tourism" (dating wherever you land).

So I am surprised to learn that Iosotaluno is already anticipating the day when her daughter signs up to the app. "She's going to be 18 in nine years, and she's going to be a Tinder member. I can't wait for that," Iosotaluno says. Her belief is that Tinder has moved on from the early days of alcohol-fuelled hook-up culture. When it comes to her daughter, Iosotaluno wants Tinder to be all about having fun. "The experience I want for her is one where she has a deep sense of belonging; it's a place that is inclusive and where she meets all types of people she could love, and there is not a strict definition of what love looks like or how it works."

Iosotaluno tells me that she is watching a sexual revolution unfold. Tinder is still the No 1 most downloaded app for 18 to 25-year-olds, but research from the company's newly released Future of Dating Report has found that Gen Z are reinventing how they use it.

The dating modus operandi for my Tinder generation was to meet in a pub, then get drunk as quickly as possible to work out if a snog was on the cards. Gen Z users drink less — 88 per cent say they'd be comfortable going on a sober date. And they seem to date as chastely as was common in the 1950s: going for a picnic in the park (41 per cent), or for coffee or tea (39 per cent).

They are certainly more straightforward than us original Tinder users. They are 32 per cent less likely to ghost someone, and about 77 per cent of them reply to their crush within 30 minutes and 40 per cent within five minutes. "Gen Z wants to cut to the chase, they want to understand who it is they're connecting with and that that person is aligned with the expectations they have. And if you're not, they're very happy to move on," Iosotaluno explains. "Playing hard to get, sending mixed signals or playing the field, which was the norm — that is very much not the case now."

Gen Z are also far more open-minded, she says. They're comfortable with polyamory and open about seeking alternative styles of relationships: ENM (ethically non-monogamous, which means you've both agreed to an open relationship) and what they like to call "situation-ships". The LGBTQ+ community is now one of the largest and fastest-growing segments on the platform. Since 2021 there has been a 30 per cent increase in users choosing gender identities other than male and female, Iosotaluno states. Non-binary is now the fastest-growing gender identity on the app, with people identifying as such increasing by 104 per cent in one year. "Tinder is not here to tell people who to love, how to love and what that looks like," Iosotaluno says.

> Tinder is not here to tell people who to love, how to love and what that looks like

Perhaps the most profound shift for this new generation of users, she says, is how shame has disappeared around casual sex. "I don't think it's that it's not happening. I think it's just being reframed…people are getting together. They are spending time with each other one on one. Sometimes it's sexual, sometimes it's not. But they don't want to put the label of hooking up on that." Indeed, she adds: "The pejorative use of the term hook-up is quickly becoming outdated. Gen Z see hooking up as part of a relationship or self-discovery journey — because you have a generation that is more fluid than ever, more open-minded about who they're meeting and who they're connecting with. They don't want labels put on them."

Are these more fluid, out-there possibilities something that a married woman with two young children can relate to or understand? (Iosotaluno is very different from, say, the polyamorous couple behind the free-for-all dating app Feeld, who say they started it to explore threesomes.) "I think my story about how I met my husband is at the core of how this kind of love evolves and develops," Iosotaluno counters.

The couple met through an accounting class and she admits that he was "someone I really wouldn't have considered", but mutual friends had begged her to go on a date with him. "On the surface it seemed we were quite different — he loved studying maths, while I loved the humanities; he had never been outside of the US, but I had travelled from Singapore to LA when I was five; we grew up on opposite sides of the US; he didn't even know west coast hip-hop — I'm from LA! But it just worked because what Pete and I shared in common wasn't the neighbourhoods that we grew up in or what we were studying. We connected on a different level: the way we thought about family, our motivations and drivers, self-discovery. Those underlying values were what mattered most."

This is the role she sees Tinder playing. "It's giving people you otherwise wouldn't meet a shot, right? Just like I gave my husband a shot. And that can be a shot for a fun night. Or it could be a shot for that first date that turns into something way more."

Thanks to her new job she still has friends begging her to improve their profiles. "Usually, when I go to a wedding and someone finds out that I work at Tinder, I'm swarmed by people who say, 'Help me! What do I need to do?!' I saw an old friend, he's amazing, and he shows me his profile and I'm like, 'OK, we can spruce this up — let's make sure you have five great photos and at least three interests. And let's make sure your bio actually shows how unique and amazing you are.'"

Her tips for a great Tinder profile include: those five great photos, avoiding group shots and showing your full face. "Photos with puppies actually do really well," she says. Doesn't Tinder's focus on photos mean it will always be a superficial-feeling app? Not at all, she says. "People think of photos as being superficial, however I think they can tell quite a lot about a person. What you choose to show, and the environment you're in, says something about you."

The perfectionist trap — why it's bad for your health

A new book by a top psychology professor says that perfectionism is causing burnout. By Rachel Carlyle

Who doesn't believe, deep down, that being a perfectionist is a pretty desirable trait in a world where going the extra mile is essential to getting ahead? It's probably why so many of us have answered that classic job interview question, "What's your greatest weakness?", with a faux-modest, "Ooh, I'd have to say it's my perfectionism."

"It's society's favourite flaw," says Professor Thomas Curran, 35, a psychologist at the London School of Economics and the world's leading authority on perfectionism. That he describes himself as a "recovering perfectionist" gives you a clue to the mission he set himself when writing his book *The Perfection Trap*: to persuade us that perfectionism is, in fact, the root of many modern anxieties and mental health issues. The opposite of useful, it can lead to self-doubt, overthinking, procrastination, depression and, ultimately, burnout.

To some extent you can blame your parents — it's an inheritable trait (genetics account for 30-40 per cent of your tendencies); Curran's mother is also a perfectionist. Early years play a part too. He grew up in a working-class family in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. "I felt inferior because we didn't have the things other kids did. A lot of my perfectionism comes from worry about not being good enough or not feeling like other people or that I belong; the fear they'll see I'm an impostor."


Thomas Curran

It was at university when it took off, though, and he felt an obsessive need to excel, regularly working 80-hour weeks. This led to a low-level depression that "exploded" into panic attacks in his early twenties after a painful break-up. When a therapist told him that perfectionism was at the root of his troubles, "it was an incredible epiphany", he says. "I talked to friends and realised I wasn't the only one feeling pressure or a need to excel and get well above average metrics otherwise people would judge them." He has studied it ever since, and his 2019 TED talk, *Our Dangerous Obsession with Perfectionism Is Getting Worse*, has had more than three million views.

Few of us are immune to the call of perfectionism in a world where we can always do more, be better, get fitter, fly higher, look hotter. It's the middle and upper echelons of society most at risk, Curran says, whether that's achieving a grade 9 or A* in this summer's exams, acing your career, or endlessly fine-tuning your fitness regimen or diet. In fact, his research shows we are in the midst of an epidemic, with levels of one particular kind of perfectionism (there are three; more on which later) rising by 40 per cent in three decades.

Curran believes the fault lies with our hyper-consumerist culture telling us we always need more, amplified 24/7 by social media. "Every last one of us in the West lives inside a culture knitted by perfectionistic fantasies," he says. "There's always another product to help us be the person we should be. There's always more, always better, always more performance to eke out. We can't just fail, we have to 'fail better' and constantly 'grow'." So how do you know when efforts at self-improvement are tipping into perfectionism? And how do you break free?

It's not just about having high standards

One thing Curran wants to make clear: perfectionism isn't the same as having high standards; it's high standards underpinned by insecurity. "Perfectionists do have high standards, but they have them because they feel at their core not good enough, not attractive enough, not competent enough, not successful enough," he explains. And as he experienced himself, they are adept at hiding their struggles — even leaning in harder when things get tough — until one day they just can't do it any more.

"People sometimes say, but wouldn't you want your surgeon or airline pilot to be a perfectionist? Absolutely not. Perfectionists are fine when things are going well, but they find challenging situations difficult. They're self-critical, they worry, anxiety takes over their decision-making and they spin out. I wouldn't want to be on that plane. What I would like my pilot or surgeon to be is conscientious, meticulous and extremely adaptive to unexpected situations."

There are three different types of perfectionist

In the late 1980s two Canadian psychologists, Paul Hewitt and Gordon Flett, came up with a perfectionism scale based on how strongly you agree or disagree with statements such as "If I screw up or fall short, I'm hard on myself"; "If I do not appear or perform perfectly, I feel a lot of guilt and shame"; "Everybody expects me to be perfect"; and "When someone close to me screws up or falls short, it's important to call them out".

They described three types of perfectionist. The most common is self-orientated — an inner pressure to be perfect that manifests as a sense of never being good enough. The second is other-orientated — expecting others to be nothing less than perfect and calling them out when they fall short, often because you're compensating for your own imagined imperfections (men tend to score higher on this than women). The third is socially prescribed — the feeling that everyone else expects you to be perfect and is constantly judging you. Most perfectionists will be a mix of all three, although likely to score higher on one kind. Women are no more likely to be perfectionist than men, Curran says, but are exposed to more societal pressure so are more vulnerable.

The most dangerous type is on the rise

All three types are becoming more prevalent, as Curran discovered when he and a colleague, Dr Andrew Hill, spent three years tracking the data of 40,000 students who had filled in Flett and Hewitt's assessment form between 1989 and 2016. But it was socially prescribed perfectionism that rose most alarmingly, by about 40 per cent — especially after 2005 (when social media boomed).


Deborah Joseph

Curran expects that in 20 years it will be the dominant form and suffered by one in three at "clinically relevant levels".

This matters, because although all three types correlate with mental health problems, this one causes the most damage. If you believe everyone expects you to be perfect and will judge you harshly if you come up short, your life is spent trying to gain acceptance and approval. Sufferers report loneliness, rumination and brooding, poor-quality relationships and low self-esteem. It's associated with self-harm, body image problems, anorexia, anxiety and is more strongly linked to thoughts of suicide than other types.

Procrastination is just one of the signs

Despite our suspicion that perfectionism is a potent secret weapon at school or in the workplace, research shows otherwise. Some studies have found no link between perfectionist tendencies and academic achievement; others have found a tiny (4 per cent) uplift, which has to be set against the disadvantage of mental health problems, Curran says. When it comes to the workplace, research has found no advantage at all, and an increased risk of burnout. Perfectionists at work tend to be inefficient over-strivers, Curran says: avoiding difficult but rewarding tasks for fear of failure and prioritising easier

MARK HARRISON FOR THE TIMES MAGAZINE; DAVID CHANG



> My pursuit of perfectionism is my greatest foe. The stress almost made me gave up work

tasks. They avoid placing themselves in situations where they may fail, so don't apply for promotion or ask for pay rises. They also procrastinate, or withhold effort entirely when things get tough. In an experiment with cyclists completing a time trial, Hill found that when he told them they had failed, the perfectionists didn't bother to try hard the second time, but the non-perfectionists' efforts remained high.

Accept that 'good enough' is good enough

Curran says he scores on all three perfectionist traits, but particularly on socially prescribed. He has managed to tame it, although he says it will never completely disappear, especially given the "perfectionist soup" we all swim in.

The first step, he says, is to accept it's a problem that needs to be addressed, even if it's deeply hidden. "Almost every perfectionist is extraordinarily adept at hiding their pain behind a mask of high functioning, maximisation and competency," he points out. Accepting yourself as 'good enough' is key — although Curran is the first to admit: "It's one thing to say it to ourselves, but quite another to sincerely believe it."

To get to that point, it's important to confront your underlying anxieties: fear of judgment, rejection and failure. "A good way to do this is to pick a task that will challenge your basic anxieties in uncomfortable ways," he says. "Speak up in situations you ordinarily feel uncomfortable in, send off that job application, talk to your boss about the raise or promotion you deserve, say no to that unpaid piece of work. Then observe what happens. How did it turn out? How do you feel?"

Curran says the magic happens when you allow yourself to sit with the anxiety these situations generate, especially if they don't pan out as you'd hoped. "Don't repress it or turn it into something else. Just let it wash through you."

How to raise non-perfectionist children

Crucially, Curran and Hill's research published last year found parental expectations were strongly linked to children's perfectionism, while their study of US, Canadian and UK students found parental expectations had risen by 40 per cent in 30 years.

Children who say their parents' love and affection isn't tied to achievement or good behaviour have lower perfectionism levels, he says. "Make sure they know failing is normal — it has consequences but is nothing to fear. Try not to shield them from uncomfortable situations they will find challenging. Let them sit with that discomfort, at least for a while. Support them in working through disappointment rather than around it. Help them but don't try to fix things."

Expectations are fine, he says, but work with your child to set them and make them realistic. "If they fall short, hug them still, praise their effort, and remind them one exam or piece of work is just one measure of learning and hasn't ruined their life chances. Talk through your own failures with them so they see failure is humanising not humiliating."

Don't look for lessons in failure

Given that avoiding failure at all costs is a symptom of perfectionism, you might imagine Curran would be in favour of the growth mindset that has taken hold in recent years, from schools to self-help podcasts, urging us to celebrate our failures and the lessons they teach us.

In fact, this can be a Catch-22 for perfectionists, he argues. "The lesson we learn is that we must always be hypervigilant of failure, concocting a way, whenever we encounter it, to turn it into something else. Growth mindset purports to celebrate failure but does the opposite. The biggest turning point for me was when I was able to let life happen and just accept that there are things I cannot control and that's OK."

Which is not to say there isn't still an inner critic waiting to pounce. "I think I'll always worry," he admits. He ruminated for months over not getting a standing ovation at the end of that TED talk. "I worry about the lectures I'm giving to my students; I'll worry about how this interview went." But now, when he's facing stress, or things don't go well, he accepts the headwinds. "We don't have to continually reinvent ourselves or 'fail better', or push through those moments," he says. "They're not things to be fixed; they're things to be recognised and appreciated as reminders of what it is to be a human being."

***The Perfection Trap* by Thomas Curran (Cornerstone £22). To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Free UK standard P&P on orders over £25. Special discount available for Times+ members**

I stopped trying to do it all — and I'm happier

Deborah Joseph, left, editor of Glamour, was exhausted and overwhelmed. So she changed her way of working and living

Last week I cried at work in front of my whole team. It was 9.23am and I'd arrived to the office in a fluster after a difficult morning getting my kids ready for school, and to my horror realised I hadn't prepared for a hugely important meeting, which I thought was on Zoom but was, in fact, in person. It was like one of those bad dreams when you walk naked into an exam without revising. I panicked. My colleagues rallied around me to help me to get my thoughts together. I'd been taking on too much and had dropped a ball.

It was a clear sign for me that I haven't been following my own advice to live my "best 70 per cent life" — a concept I vowed to follow when I took on the fast-paced and demanding role as editor-in-chief of Glamour five and a half years ago. With three children then aged two, four and six, I came close to having a mental burnout. I was barely sleeping because most nights my to-do list was spinning round my mind until 3am. I decided that to make it work I would start to consciously drop balls, 30 per cent of balls to be precise, and put all my effort into the 70 per cent that really mattered to achieve success and be happy.

Apart from the fact that women have been sold a huge lie about having it all, it was my pursuit of perfectionism and trying to do it all that was, and still is, my greatest foe. The stress of that almost convinced me to give up work. I felt I was failing at everything: work, motherhood, being a wife, a friend, not losing baby weight, not growing a social media following.

Life felt like a game of whack-a-mole — I'd succeed in one area where I put my attention, but inevitably fail in another. I'd have a great week at work, but then my children felt emotionally neglected. I put my marriage first then didn't see my friends for months. I started asking myself, "Will this matter to me when I eventually look back on my life?" If the answer was no, I'd drop it into the 30 per cent category.

Like many women, I've been taught to aim for perfection both in education and at home. I went to a feminist all-girls school in Manchester that taught me, rightly, that I could reach for the top, be anything I wanted to be. This balanced with the influence of being a "domestic goddess mother" who never had a hair out of place, ran a pristine house and never relied on a man.

While these messages were ingrained in me, no one ever explained how to reach the top of your career *and* look after a family. I didn't want to choose between the two. It's not just career women feeling the burnout; full-time motherhood has also become a highly pressurised arena. It's a competition over who has lost weight the quickest after giving birth, who can be the most stylish, the best cook, run the most House & Garden-worthy home. The unfair judgment of women's lives has always been there, but social media has exacerbated it.

I've had to make some adjustments to reduce my mental load. I ended a couple of friendships; ones that were sucking me of energy rather than providing me with joy. And I've become more selfish with my time, saying no to most social engagements and staying in most Saturday nights with my husband to watch Netflix. The weekends are for me, my husband and kids. I switch off my phone on a Saturday. I've put down stricter boundaries, which led to a family member telling me I'd become selfish. My response? "Yes, I have become more selfish and I'm happier for it."

I've stopped worrying that I still (after eight years) haven't lost my baby weight and I exercise for my mental health. I do yoga and swimming to help me to relax. I resigned from the school PTA. I've become more organised, always having a cupboard full of birthday cards and presents at the ready, so I'm not running around at the last minute. I rely heavily on Amazon Prime for those last-minute balls I still drop unintentionally. And no, I don't feel guilty about any of it. The concept of guilt has been put into my 30 per cent because it's wasted energy.

> I felt I was failing at everything: motherhood, work, being a wife, a friend, not losing baby weight

I insisted my husband (who has a full-on job) join the school WhatsApp groups and emails, so that the mental load is divided between us. He's always been a hands-on dad, but I needed to share the mental load with him and this has helped our marriage.

It's my duty to help other women in the workplace to find balance. For example, offering senior women job shares after having a baby so they can work part-time.

What has this all done? It's made me stop expecting so much of myself, and if others expect more of me, that's their problem. I've kept a job I love, my kids seem to be growing up well-rounded. And when I get it wrong, when I mess up, when I cry at work, I don't lie in bed feeling embarrassed about it as I would have done. It has to be OK for others in my team to cry too, without shame if they're feeling under pressure. I accept that dropping balls is a reality for most women and ultimately I believe that done is better than perfect.

PS: the meeting was a great success. We're meeting again next week.

Deborah Joseph is European editorial director of Glamour

Should I tell him about my new vibrator?

Dr Suzi Godson
Sex counsel

Q My partner is recovering from prostate cancer, which obviously put our sex life on the back burner. Without him knowing I bought a vibrator and it has been a revelation. Now we're starting to get things back on track, should I give it up? His ego is still quite fragile.

A I don't see why you can't have both. If your partner has not been well he is likely to have less stamina, so anything that ensures you both have a good time without him having to exhaust himself will surely be welcome.

Women often presume that men will feel threatened if a female partner says that she owns a vibrator. It's wrong to assume this. Studies have shown that not only do men not mind, they are more likely to be impressed — encouraged by the fact that their partner has a healthy libido and is willing to satisfy it independently. A study of more than 3,000 people by Indiana University put this theory to the test and found that 70 per cent of men had no problem at all with their female partner using a vibrator. A separate study by the same researcher suggested that 45 per cent of men and 53 per cent of women aged 18 to 60 used vibrators together in bed.

Introducing this stimulation is a great way to take the pressure off your partner to bring you to climax. Your chances of having an orgasm, meanwhile, are maximised. I suggest you make the suggestion, and as long as it's not a definite "no" from him, bring your new toy to the bedroom the next time you want to have sex.

I don't know how old you are, but vibrators are an increasingly essential addition to sex in midlife. Nerve sensation decreases as we age, so most of us require more stimulation the older we get. The same will be true for your partner (although they are marketed to women, vibrators are very effective at stimulating men too).

> "A study found that 70 per cent of men had no problem with their female partner using a vibrator

The vibrator I highly recommend to women — the Lelo Sona 2 Cruise — may be designed for clitoral stimulaton, but you could encourage him to try the sensations, too. It is powerful, but there are different settings, so choose the weakest one to start with. If he can surrender himself to the experience and relax enough to let the pleasure build it can only be a good thing.

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Want a sharper brain and younger skin? Eat more blueberries

Scientists now say that blueberries are even better for us than we thought. By Peta Bee


GETTY IMAGES

If any berry has it all in terms of health benefits, it is the blueberry. It's packed with vitamin C, fibre and potassium, which benefit gut health and support immunity, and it is also rich in flavonoids, the naturally occurring polyphenol plant compounds that help to reduce and repair cell damage and lower inflammation in the body.

Among the latest evidence of the fruit's benefits is a study from King's College London and the University of Reading, published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, in which researchers found that eating a handful of blueberries daily for three months produced a host of health benefits, including improved memory and brain function, lower blood pressure and faster reaction times in a group of healthy men and women aged 65-80. "Previous research showed that there are potential advantages from consuming blueberries, but this study went a step further and found a dietary-achievable amount could benefit cognitive and cardiovascular health," says Dr Ana Rodriguez-Mateos, a reader in nutrition at the University of Reading. "We think the blue pigments, the anthocyanins, are behind these effects as we measured increases in their metabolites in the urine of participants over the 12-week study."

Cynthia Kenyon, the pioneering anti-ageing scientist who is emeritus professor of biochemistry and biophysics at the University of California San Francisco, recently revealed that blueberries are one of the substances that billionaires are dosing themselves with in their quest for health and youth thanks to emerging — and convincing — evidence of their potent anti-ageing powers. Studies have confirmed that blueberries are key to warding off the ravages of ageing by preserving cognitive function and brain health, fighting DNA damage and heart disease in older people, and even extending lifespan in laboratory-based studies. And recent findings published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition show that eating foods such as blueberries that contain the beneficial flavonoid quercetin could help reduce frailty (characterised by reduced muscle strength and fatigue) in older people.

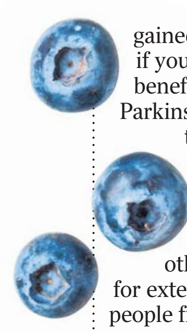
What is it that sets blueberries apart? All dark berries contain some anthocyanins, but the deeper the red, purple or blue colour of the fruit, the higher the amounts of these compounds. This means blueberries are hard to beat. When scientists rate the antioxidant capacity of foods using an ORAC (oxygen radical absorbance capacity) test tube analysis, blueberries invariably come out with some of the highest scores. "Most anthocyanins are in the skin of berries," says Aedín Cassidy, a professor in nutrition and preventative medicine at Queen's University Belfast. "And we believe blueberries to contain more of these beneficial anthocyanins than most other fruit."

Rhiannon Lambert, the nutritionist and author of *The Science of Nutrition*, says eating berries throughout life is a healthy move. "The antioxidant properties of berries can help to reduce oxidative stress in the body that can lead to cell damage and diseases of ageing," she explains. And it's never too late to start incorporating more blueberries into your diet. In a paper published last week in BMC Medicine, Cassidy found that switching to a berry-rich diet in your forties and fifties can pay off. "We showed that if you change to eating more blueberries and flavonoid-rich foods in midlife it can change your life expectancy for the better," she says. "It really is never too late to start eating more of this fruit."

Here's how to squeeze the most benefit out of the fruit.

Eat a handful of blueberries every other day to boost longevity

Most studies suggest an intake of 150-200g — equivalent to a medium or large dish full — of blueberries daily is needed for maximum health benefits for people with existing health conditions, metabolic syndrome or obesity. But Cassidy and her team discovered that there are still health benefits to be gained from eating less than that if you're healthy. "We are seeing benefits for heart disease, diabetes and Parkinson's disease prevention with just three small portions a week for people who are generally healthy," she says. "Our latest study indicated that eating 80-100g, or a small handful, every other day seemed to be beneficial for extending life expectancy of healthy people from middle age onwards."



> A daily handful of blueberries for three months improves memory and lowers blood pressure

Frozen berries can be healthier than fresh

Cassidy says that there is nothing worse than an overripe blueberry. "If it's soft and squidgy they don't taste great," she says. "There are many ways to have them and frozen is a great standby." Frozen blueberries may even be better for you. In a trial at South Dakota University, researchers showed that the process of freezing the fruit improved availability of the antioxidants they contain, meaning the body gets a bigger nutrient boost. "Storing blueberries in the freezer is always a good move and they will likely contain more nutrients than those left languishing in the fridge for too long," Cassidy says.

Some proponents make a point of suggesting wild blueberries are better than regular varieties, but Cassidy says this is misleading. "In the blueberry world there are high bush and low bush, or wild, and there is nothing much that differentiates them nutritionally," she says. "The smaller and firmer a blueberry, the more skin you will consume when you eat a dish of them and therefore the more anthocyanins you will obtain."

A large serving a week can boost brain power

Cassidy says that the flavonoids in blueberries are now known to help increase blood flow around the body and to the brain. "This means they should be helpful to the brain and the prevention of cognitive decline," she says.

One Harvard study of women in their seventies and older showed that eating a large dish of blueberries at least once a week could help to delay cognitive ageing by up to two and a half years. In the new study from King's College London and the University of Reading, eating blueberries every day boosted cognitive function of older people. "The group consuming the blueberry powder showed signs of better memory and greater mental flexibility when completing cognitive tests," said Claire Williams, a professor of neuroscience at the University of Reading.

A blueberry smoothie can help control blood sugar

Blending frozen, powdered, fresh or dried blueberries into a smoothie is a good option, Cassidy says. "Homemade blueberry smoothies are a lot better than commercial varieties as the fruit isn't as heavily pulverised, meaning sugars are not released from the fruit in such high amounts," she explains. "In terms of anthocyanin content, you lose nothing by adding them to a smoothie and will gain all the benefits in the same way." When people at risk of developing type 2 diabetes were asked to consume two blueberry smoothies a day, researchers at Louisiana State University saw big improvements in their blood sugar control.

A daily serving will lower cholesterol and protect your heart

A medium daily serving of 150g of blueberries was shown by a team of researchers from the University of East Anglia and the University of Southampton to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease by up to 15 per cent. Rodriguez-Mateos and the KCL team also showed that a month of consuming a similar amount daily improved blood vessel function and helped to lower systolic blood pressure in healthy people. "If the improvements we saw in blood vessel function after consuming blueberries every day could be sustained for life, it could reduce someone's risk of developing cardiovascular disease by up to one fifth," Rodriguez-Mateos says. Even in people at higher risk of heart disease, a blueberry habit will pay off. A study of obese men and women that was carried out by nutritionists at Oklahoma State University showed that 50g of freeze-dried blueberries daily — the equivalent of 350g of fresh blueberries — lowered their levels of LDL bad cholesterol by 27 per cent over eight weeks.

You can now whip up some [milk.co.uk/recipes/pancakes] without milk!

How do we celebrate the launch of our new plant-based drinks? By sending you to a dairy website! That may seem kind of unexpected, but here's the thing: Our new products work the same way as milk in coffee, tea, smoothies, porridge and cereal – as well as for cooking and baking. We figured, why not share a site that has a range of great recipes already? Those milk people even put the recipes into practical categories such as "breakfast", "dinner" and "party food" which, we assume, means food you serve at parties and not food that likes to party. And all those dishes can now be made without the cow's milk and without the higher climate impact of cow's milk.*





* According to a recent study, comparable cow's milk has a 2.4, 2.5 and 2.7 times higher climate impact than Oatly Whole, Oatly Semi and Oatly Skimmed (Light), respectively, sold in the UK. Derived from: Blonk Consultants (2023), LCA of Oatly "No" Sugars and Oatly Oat Drink (Whole/Semi/Light), and comparison with cow's milk. Blonk Sustainability, Gouda, the Netherlands. Stages include raw material to point of sale and packaging waste management for average litre produced in the Netherlands and sold in the UK. Findings subject to assumptions, limitations, conclusions and critical review statement.

The critic's top low-alcohol bottles Jane MacQuitty



I am not a member of the alcohol police, but given that claret vintages now routinely weigh in at 14, even 15 per cent, with burgundy going the same way and sunny, southern French reds such as châteauneuf-du-pape knocking on 16 per cent plus, I find myself increasingly on the lookout for lower alcohol wines. Frankly, though, it's the devil's own job to find good ones. The problem is that warmer, earlier harvests the world over make for sweeter grapes, which in turn make for more alcoholic wines.

There are all manner of high-tech ways of stripping alcohol out of wine, from reverse osmosis, vacuum distillation and spinning cones to the latest wheeze of using bacteria instead of yeast during fermentation. The trouble is, take out the alcohol and you take out much of the flavour too, and winemakers have to work hard to hang on to varietal character, acidity, texture and aroma.

Better, then, to stick to northern grape-growing climates, where less sun means less ripe grapes and naturally less alcoholic wines. Riesling fans are spoilt for choice in Germany, especially with the luscious late-harvest styles hovering around 7-9 per cent. Back in Blighty, at 11 per cent or so, there is good bacchus, our answer to sauvignon blanc, and decent pinot noir. If it's fizz you want, 11 per cent prosecco or cava fits the bill. Heading into summer, it's crisp, light vinho verde, from northern Portugal's damp green coast, that floats my boat. Aldi's 2022 Animus Vinho Verde (11 per cent; £4.79), made predominantly from the floral loureiro grape, makes for a sparky lemon spritz of a white.

Austria is another cool, northern wine producer worth checking out and I loved the perky, white pepper and citrus blast of its 2021 Mehofer Grüner Veltliner, Wagram Klassik (privatecellar.co.uk, £11.25). Removing sugar-producing leaves before the grapes ripen is behind Forrest Wines' 9.5 per cent range, and its 2022 The Doctors' Sauvignon (Tesco, £10) is a terrific, summery, lemongrass and gooseberry wallop. With the first homegrown summer berries en route, we all need a luscious pudding wine to sip with them. Hacienda de Lluna's 2021 Moscatel Rosado, from Spain's hot, arid Valencia, is just 5 per cent alcohol and the sort of sweet, rose petal-perfumed pink that will go down well with one and all (sundaytimeswineclub.co.uk, £5.99).

Por do Sol Vinho Verde

Portugal
9 per cent
Tesco, £5.25

Off-dry, light but lively, spritzy summer white with lashings of leafy, easy-quaffing grapefruit zest and zing.



2022 Moscato d'Asti, GD Vajra

Italy, 5.5 per cent
vinvm.co.uk
£14.70

Scrumptious, softly sweet, musky, hothouse grape-scented moscato, with masses of frothy white peach.



2020 The Doctors' Pinot Noir

New Zealand
9.5 per cent
Booths, £13.50

Overflowing with beefy, mocha and tobacco-leaf fruit, you'd never guess that its alcohol has been cleverly reduced.



2018 The Society's Exhibition Hunter Valley Semillon

Australia
11 per cent
thewine society.com, £18

Sensational, steely, classic semillon, with delicious lime jelly and nutty, buttered toast fruit.



2021 Hacienda de Lluna Moscatel Rosado

Spain, 5 per cent
sundaytimes-wineclub.co.uk,
£5.99

Don't turn up your nose at this sweetly fruited, frothy pink; served cool with fresh summer berries or a fruit tart, it's delicious.



2022 The Doctors' Sauvignon Blanc

New Zealand
9.5 per cent
Tesco, £10

Dr John Forrest and his team lower alcohol in the vineyard, care of early picking and leaf plucking. This summery sauvignon gets my thumbs-up.



2021 Mehofer Grüner Veltliner, Wagram Klassik

Austria, 11 per cent
privatecellar.co.uk,
£11.25 down from £12.50

From an old Austrian family estate that has been in the village of Neudegg for more than three centuries, this organic, vegan-friendly 2021 is a cracker.



2022 Animus Vinho Verde

Portugal
11 per cent
Aldi, £4.79

Hard to beat Aldi's run of lovely Portuguese wines and this off-dry vinho verde is principally loureiro, topped up with a good dollop of the arinto grape.



SPONSORED CONTENT

A slice of summer



This zingy peppered steak salad is perfect for alfresco lunches

Treat yourself to a steak salad – perfect for eating outside as the days turn warmer. Fresh herbs jazz up the ranch dressing for a creamy potato salad piled on top of peppery watercress and finished with juicy slices of griddled Tesco Finest steak. These prime cuts are prepared by experts and matured for at least 30 days for tenderness and rich flavour. Make sure to render the fat down fully so it melts and caramelises, for full release of flavour and a real wow factor.

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

400g Jersey Royal potatoes
2 x 200g Tesco Finest ribeye steaks, at room temperature
1 tbsp olive oil, plus extra for brushing
1½ tsp coarsely ground black pepper
2 red peppers, deseeded and sliced into strips
50g watercress

For the herby ranch dressing
2 tbsp light mayonnaise
4 tbsp half-fat soured cream
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 tbsp chives, chopped
1 tbsp fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped

METHOD

1. Boil the potatoes in a pan of water for 8-10 minutes until almost tender. Drain and set aside.

2. Meanwhile, make the dressing. Put all the ingredients in a jug with 3 tbsp water and whisk together, adding another 1 tbsp water if needed to get a drizzling consistency. Season to taste and set aside.

3. Brush the steaks with a little oil and sprinkle over half the ground black pepper. Heat a griddle or frying pan over a high heat and cook the steaks for 3-4 minutes each side for medium-rare, or until cooked to your liking. Transfer to a warm plate, cover and leave to rest.

4. Halve the potatoes and put in a bowl with the red peppers. Toss with the oil and remaining black pepper. Transfer to the hot griddle or frying pan and cook for 4-5 minutes on a high heat, turning occasionally, until tender and charred (you may need to do this in two batches).

5. Pile the watercress on to a serving plate. Thinly slice the steaks and layer on top with the potatoes and red peppers. Drizzle over some dressing and serve the rest on the side.

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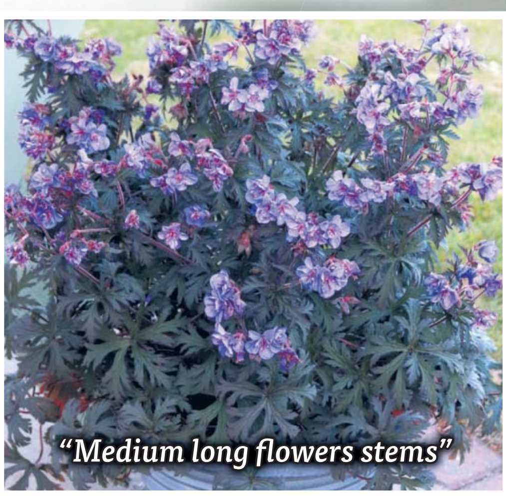
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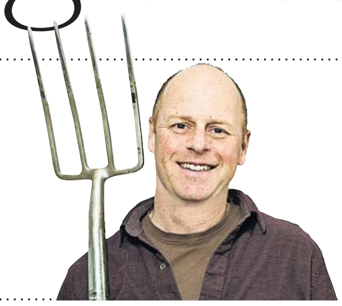
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Outside

Chelsea Flower Show trends

Best in show: join the Chelsea set with these fabulous foxgloves

They're a go-to flower for top garden designers, but anyone can grow them — and now's the perfect time to get planting, writes Joe Swift





Flowerbed containing Digitalis grandiflora

I've just returned from Chelsea Flower Show and I'm all fox-gloved up (again!). Unsurprisingly, I guess — it happens every year because they have been a stalwart at the show since the first one in 1913. The common native foxglove, *Digitalis purpurea*, is early flowering. Its purple, pink and white spires of tubular flowers up to two metres in height appear from almost nowhere to tower over neighbouring plants. They take up little ground space, so can be packed into available gaps to seemingly burst through other perennials and ground cover… another reason they're a show-garden favourite. The distinctive speckles on the tubular flowers guide bees in (and others) and the lower lip provides the perfect landing pad for pollinators.

The common foxglove is often considered a shade lover. Yes, they do OK in full shade, but their top spot is the lighter dappled shade of a woodland edge or mixed hedgerow where they will happily self-seed. Being particularly versatile plants, they do well in tricky spots in our gardens such as along hedges, fences, walls and under trees and large shrubs. Their upright habit introduces a lovely vertical brushstroke, so dot them around "kind of randomly on purpose" to add a simple rhythm through your scheme.

If you already grow the common foxglove, perhaps it's time to expand your range — and thereby extend the season too because many bloom later in summer. There are 27 species, plus umpteen hybrids and cultivars — unsurprising because they are rather promiscuous plants.

Many digitalis come from much warmer climates (Turkey/Caucasus) so do best in a sunnier spot. *D. ferruginea* and *D. parviflora* flower later into July and

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FIONA LEA/GAP PHOTOS; ALAMY



August, their more muted bleached-out tones working perfectly alongside ornamental grasses.

Most digitalis are biennial, germinating and growing rosettes of leaves in their first year and then flowering in their second. Some are (and others behave like, depending on the conditions) short-lived perennials coming up and flowering again for a few seasons. *D. mertonensis* is the most reliably perennial, but tends to be less floriferous as it ages.

> There are 27 species, plus umpteen hybrids and cultivars

If you want flowers every year, sow seed or plant potted plants two years in a row. If these are happy in their spot they will multiply to get a good succession underway. The tiny seeds can lie dormant in the soil for many years until the light and moisture are just right, so they often pop up (seemingly from nowhere) after conditions change, such as when a tree or shrub is taken out or an area is cleared.

You can buy plants in pots now to pop in or lift some (from your friends?) where they have self-seeded. Growing from seed works out much cheaper for flowering the next year. Sow a little later in summer or early autumn directly in situ or sow in pots to grow on with a view to planting out next spring.

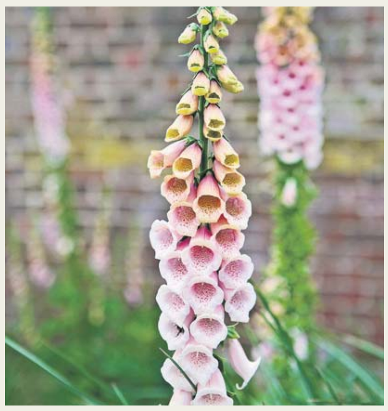
More trends next page

Page 19

'The verges of the road were lined with trees, wide strips that told of animal droving'

Christopher Somerville's good walk

Joe's favourite foxgloves



Digitalis purpurea 'Sutton's Apricot'

Neat apricot spires that work well set against dark foliage plants. Height 1m.



D. purpurea Excelsior Group

Improved forms of our native plant. Ideal for a cottage garden scheme, it comes in a variety of soft pinks, purples and whites. Cut back after flowering (which will stop self-seeding) as they often develop shoots to give a second flush later in the year. Height 2m.



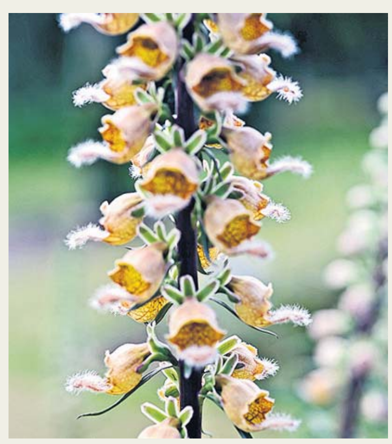
D. purpurea 'Alba'

Pure white (often with maroon or soft yellow speckling in the throat). Elegant in an all-white border or dot through to lift other colours. Height 1.8m.



D. parviflora 'Milk Chocolate'

Later flowering. Dense spikes of deep orange to reddish brown flowers with darker lips. A short-lived, exotic-looking perennial that's best planted in quantity. Height 60cm.



D. laevigata

Glossy dark green foliage and slender spikes of orange-bronze tinted flowers with a white lip. Long flowering time from late spring through summer. Height 70cm.



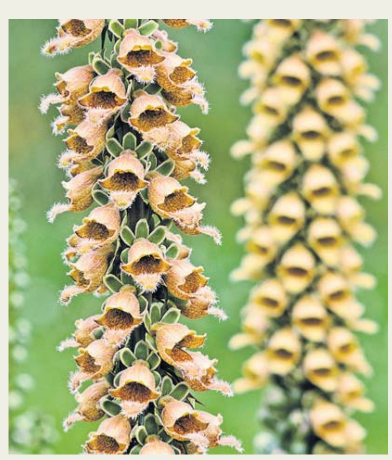
D. 'Illumination Pink'

This new perennial variety has quite an exotic look and repeat flowers for ages. Branching stems produce pink flowers on the outside and soft yellow inside, so quite a statement. Sterile, so will not seed. Height 80cm



D. grandiflora

Clear, soft-yellow outer petals with pinky-brown margins and bronze-speckled throats. Evergreen rosettes of leaves. Usually comes back for a few years. Height 75cm.



D. ferruginea

Spires of pale orange-brown flowers in midsummer and large soft leaves. It works beautifully floating among grasses in a soft, naturalistic planting scheme. Height 1.2m.



Digitalis x mertonensis 'Summer King'

A perennial foxglove with flowers the colour of crushed strawberries in June and July. It will freely self-seed and come true from seed. Height 90cm.

Weeder's digest

Keep tucking those clematis shoots back into their host supports while they are still soft and their leaves capable of twisting round whatever anchorage they encounter. Honeysuckles are also growing like crazy and their extension growths need winding into place before they stiffen and incline to snap at the base.

Every few days, go round likely slug and snail hideaways in the morning and collect the culprits. Wooden planks laid propped just above bare soil make a good trap.

Look out for seedlings of the shrubby *Euphorbia characias* and move them into useful positions or pot them up for later use. Do the same with seedlings of the tall, airy *Verbena bonariensis*; specimens established small this way will stand up far better than ones bought in large pots of commercial compost. Don't be afraid to leave them growing in paving cracks; they do well there.

Make an assault on weeds running under your fences. Ground elder, couch grass, enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*) etc. Never put weed roots on the compost heap.

Start to give summer-flowering clematis their fortnightly canful of liquid tomato feed.

Before the rain returns, make sure you have supports in place for the kinds of border perennials that rely on it, such as delphiniums.

The foliage of snowdrops and early daffodils is yellowing now and where they are growing in grass it can be mown. Tall, late daffodils are still mostly green and ought to wait a little longer because those leaves are feeding the bulbs.

Stephen Anderton

THE TIMES Saturday May 27 2023

Six takeaways from the show — that you can copy at home

From garden design to standout plants, Stephen Anderton picks his highlights

Chelsea Flower Show trends

ALAMY; STEPHEN ANDERTON; RACHEL HALE



Reclaimed concrete slabs in the Centre for Mental Health's Balance Garden



Red campion and ox-eye daisies



Plant shelves in the Viking Restorative Balcony Garden



Iris 'Benton Olive' in Sarah Price's Nurture Landscapes Garden

The good thing about spending time at a show like Chelsea is that so many things pop into your mind as you go round. I had nine hours of it this week and I was ready to sit down, I can tell you. You spot things, maybe once, maybe twice, and you think, "Oh, I could do that, or I could put that with that" or even, "Oh, so that's how it should look if it's happy, why do I bother?" Well, here are a few running themes and trends that jumped out at me this time, which you can certainly copy in your own garden.

Try multicoloured irises

Call them an acquired taste, but those irises with subtle, mixed colours are amazing. Sarah Price's garden used Cedric Morris old varieties, which have such moody mixtures — 'Benton Olive' is a marvel of yellow, cream and lavender. But if you have doubts about growing old varieties and want modern vigour, length of season and better-spaced flowers, look to *Iris* 'Haunted Heart' (pale lavender and white) or 'Mystic Art' (pale lavender and pale pink). For moody, misty colours, you can't do much better than irises.

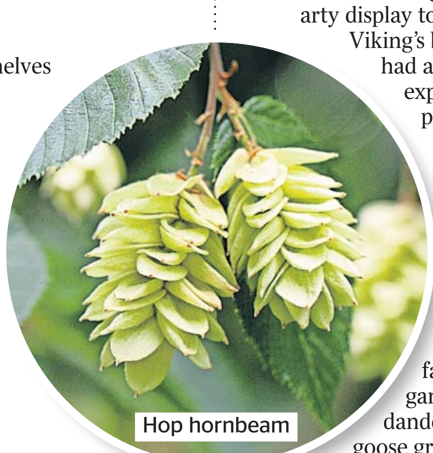
Plant hop hornbeam trees for beautiful flowers

Last year's hot summer has made all the trees flower like mad and Mark Gregory's kitchen garden included a wonderful *Ostrya carpinifolia*, the hop hornbeam. I've not seen such a big one at Chelsea before, and it was covered in fat strings of "hops", one of the great catkin trees. One to consider if you fancy something unusual but don't want flashy.

Use shelves as structures

In small gardens or on balconies, bookshelves (literally) fixed to a house wall or fence can be a great way to pack in plants without the effect becoming too spotty. It's a chance to indulge in a bit of arty display too. For example, Viking's balcony garden had a display of expensive antique plant pots, scrubbed exquisitely clean.

> There were gardens that even had dandelions and nettles



Hop hornbeam

Let the weeds grow and self-seed

What weeds do you favour? There were gardens that even had dandelions, nettles and goose grass. But how about planting some native red campion (*Silene dioica*) and then letting it self-seed? It grows almost anywhere, is substantial at 50cm but easy to remove if necessary, and looks fabulous with just-as-easy wild ox-eye daisies. Your wildflower patch solved. They used just that mix at Chelsea in several places, sometimes growing in thin grass, sometimes on its own, and it looked great.

Buy perennials as plugs (they're cheaper!)

It's not just bedding plants that come as little plug plants now. You can find formerly expensive, classy perennials sold the same way, such as *Agapanthus* 'Black Magic' from Hoyland Plant Centre (somethingforthegarden.co.uk) and fancy foxgloves from the Botanic Nursery (thebotanicnursery.co.uk). Friends tell me you can have the agapanthus up and flowering in a couple of years. Imagine a dozen potfuls dancing down a set of garden steps.

Use concrete slabs creatively

It usually feels right to stick chunks of broken-up concrete slab in a skip. But Chelsea wanted to show how, if you've a bit of an arty eye, you can re-use it constructively to make new paths and paving. Seems sensible. The knack, I'd say, is to break off all those old, straight edges and, as you lay them, to give some sense of direction and some sense of flow to the arrangement in terms of the size of the pieces. Don't make it too even: you don't want to make a modern, ecologically sensitive version of 1950s crazy paving.

Question time

Q I have two *Photinia* 'Red Robin' in large pots but the foliage is not as bushy nor the red as vibrant as the ones my neighbour has planted in soil. Why? *K Budgen*

A So often I find myself saying there is more to a problem than just feeding, but this time it probably is feeding. It's too late to recolour that new spring foliage this year and it would be turning green now anyway. But get some liquid feed on them and pot them up into containers 10cm bigger all round, then the next growth spurt should be infinitely better. The whole point of the shrub is to get that lush red leaf growth — it's so striking that people put up with its stinking flowers.

Q Another year waiting for the daffodils to flower and then disappointment. Nearly all the buds have been eaten. Is there a safe spray that I can use on the daffodils before buds appear? *M Cann*

A Your problem is snails or slugs, usually tiny ones that eat into the bud. Sprays won't work. You will have to look to all the many usual means of reducing slugs, as well as perhaps not growing them in grass where their bases are a damp slug heaven, and by dividing old, heavily congested clumps to the same end.

Q My beech hedge never comes into leaf all together, only in patches down its length. Is it a water problem? *G Hordern*

A No, it's just the different trees within the hedge taking their own sweet time to respond to the spring. It's natural and unavoidable. The way round this kind of variation in a hedge is to plant material raised from cuttings of the same plant, but usually this is done only for the most formal of evergreen hedges.

Send your questions to stephen.anderton@thetimes.co.uk



KAREN ADAMS/STOCKIMO, ANNE CLARK, EDO SCHMIDT/ALAMY





A good walk Canons Ashby and Oxford Lane, Northamptonshire

How hard is it?

5 miles; easy; field paths, farm tracks

When the National Trust took over Canons Ashby in 1981, the Tudor country house in gently rolling Northamptonshire countryside was a wreck, its gardens run wild. It was hard to imagine on this brisk spring day with volunteers tending the tulip beds and topiary in the immaculate gardens, and others ready to fill in the story of the ironstone house and its dark panelled rooms gathered tightly round a tall courtyard.

The Augustinian canons of the medieval priory were rather a naughty lot. In 1432 the visiting bishop had to rebuke them for lecherous, rowdy and drunken behaviour. When the priory was dissolved in 1536, the outgoing prior had earned a sorry reputation for hosting wild parties, worshipping in a lavish silver robe and flouting his vows of celibacy.

Out in the parkland beyond the house ewes bleated for lambs that scampered up with grubby knees. Bullocks jostled to stare at us over the hedge. At South West Farm a couple of guinea fowl went scuttling across the road with their characteristically furtive air, hunched down in spotted cloaks of feathers as though guilty of some misdoing.

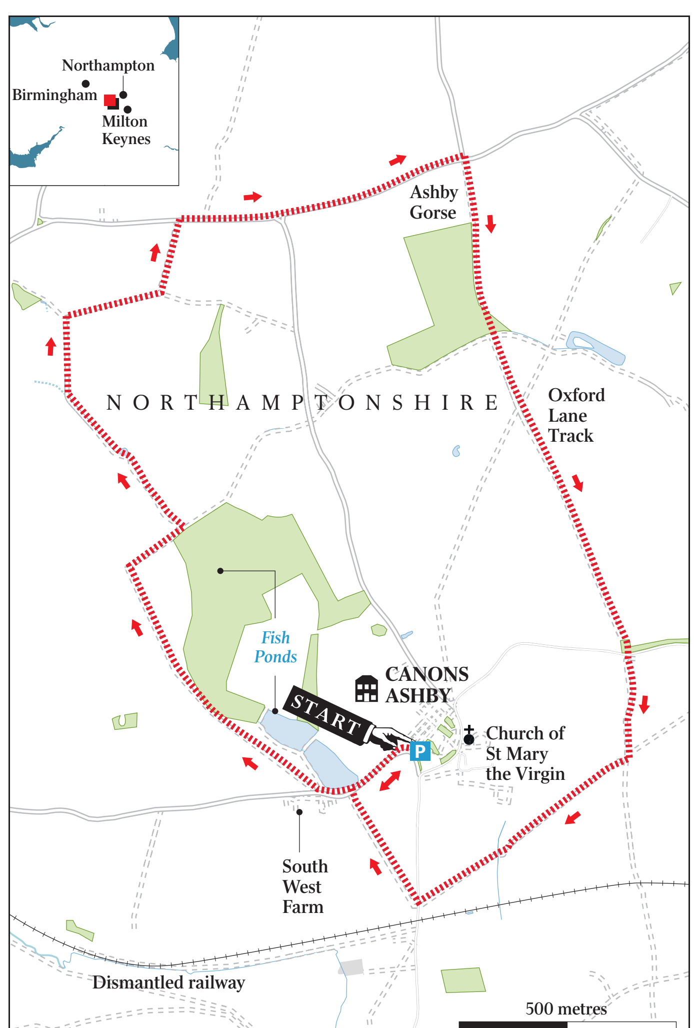
The trees around the priory fishponds were loud with birdsong — chaffinches, blackbirds, great tits, blackcaps and song thrushes giving it their best springtime chorus. The path led round the margins of enormous fields of wheat. In their hedges white blossom of blackthorn and pink of crab apple gave promise of a fruitful autumn six months hence.

Up on the crest of the land we turned along a ridge road with long views over the plough-striped undulations of the countryside. The verges of the road were lined with trees, wide grassy strips that told of past animal droving.

Oxford Lane, our return route to Canons Ashby, was another broad green highway. Cattle, sheep and pigs would be driven down here towards the slaughterhouses and college kitchens of the university town. The old green road has lost its easterly hedge to modern farming. The soil of the wheatfields that bordered it was thick with flint, chert, fossil shells and pebbles rolled smooth and round by some great prehistoric river.

Bluebells hazed the ground under the larches, pink bonnets of milkmaids spattered the damp ditches, and a few early bees went buzzing among the white blackthorn blossom.

Start Canons Ashby house, near Daventry, Northants NN11 3SD. (OS ref SP 577505) – National Trust pay car park; limited parking also available at the church

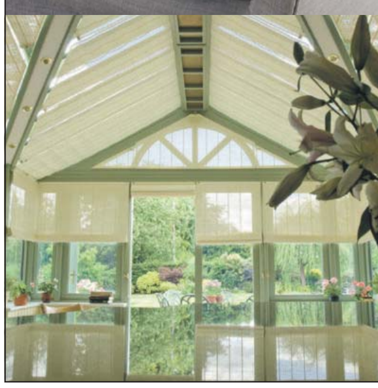


Canons Ashby as seen from the formal gardens. Top right: a blackthorn bush in blossom. Above: chaffinches can be seen and heard in full song around the old Augustinian priory fishponds

Getting there Signposted from A361 (Daventry-Banbury)
Walk (OS Explorer 206): from car park, right down road. Just past South West Farm, right (573503, fingerpost) on field path, following arrows. In ¾ mile, at "Private" notice (568512), left along farm track, then hedgeside track. In ½ mile at oak tree with arrows (564519), right with hedge on right. In 400m left up hedge (568520) to road (568521). Right; in just under ¾ mile, opposite road on left, right down Oxford Lane hedged track (578525, "Byway, Macmillan Way"/MW). In ½ mile MW bears right (580516), but keep ahead. In ½ mile cross road (584508) and on. In 400m right (584504, gate, arrow); half left across pastures till right-hand hedge meets fence (579501). Through three kissing gates, across footbridge; on across field to cross road (577499, fingerpost). Field path to road at South West Farm (574503); right to car park.
Lunch Crown Inn, Weston NN12 8PX (01295 760310, thecrownweston.co.uk); NT tea room at Canons Ashby.
Accommodation Weston Hill Farm, Moreton Pinkney NN11 3SN (01295 760217)
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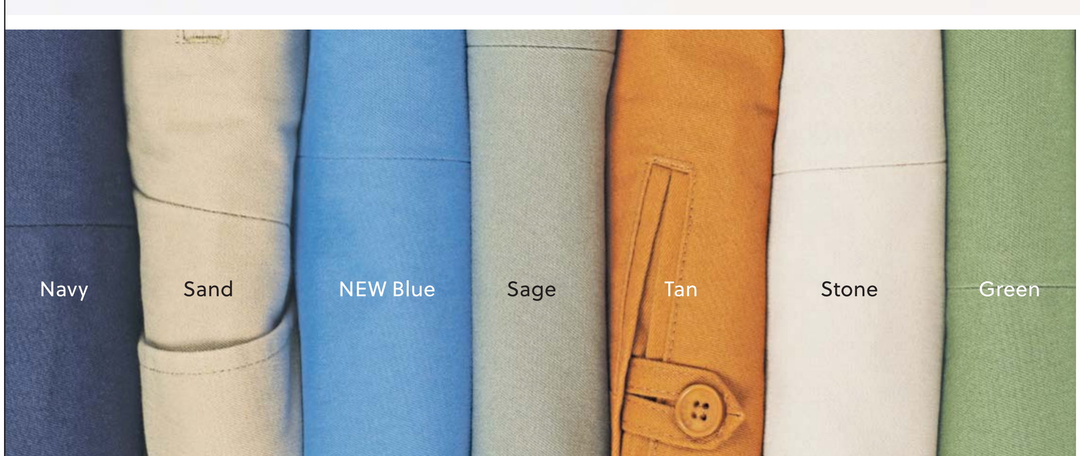
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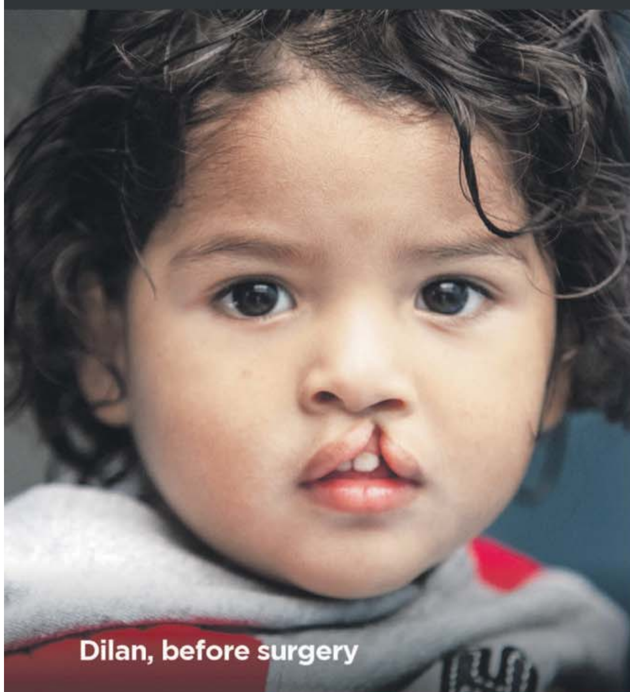
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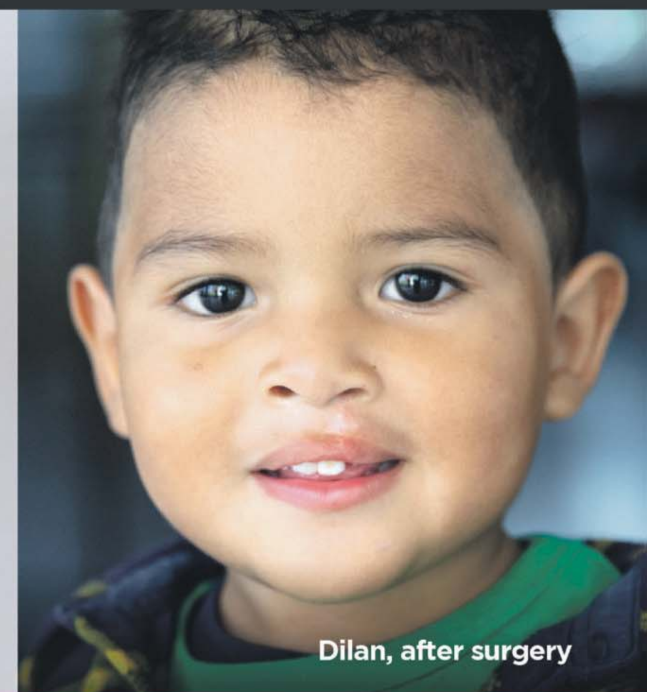
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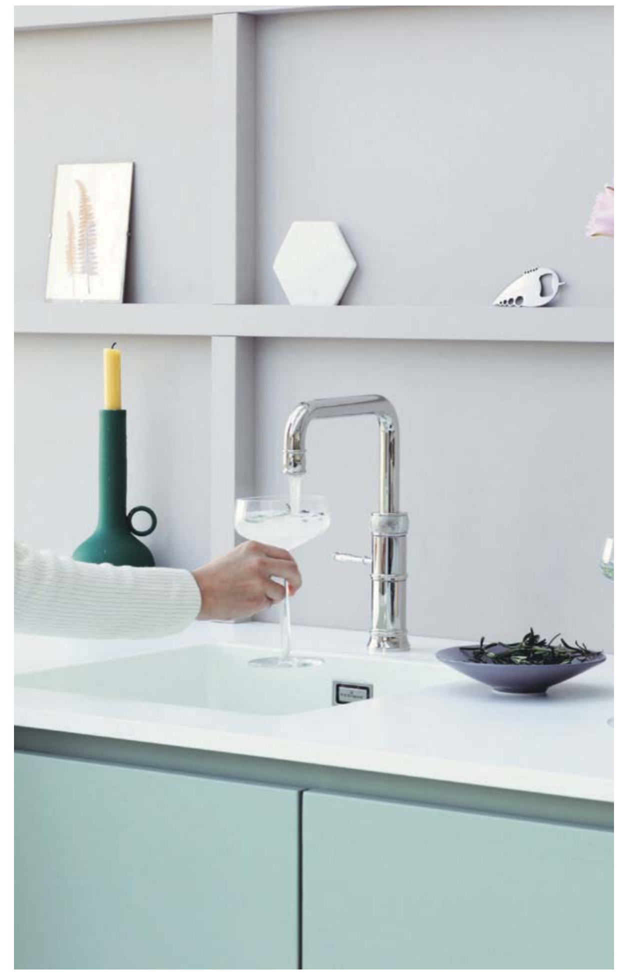
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*Figures sourced from Quooker UK

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The Church Street Antiques Fair in Marylebone returns after four-year hiatus

THE CHURCH STREET ANTIQUES FAIR LONDON NW8



The Church Street Antiques Fair, established in 2017, returns on Sunday, 11 June, following a four-year hiatus. The fair is a collaboration between the Church Street Antiques and Art Dealers' Association and Alfies Antique Market and is supported by Westminster City Council Church Street Regeneration.

Church Street, a lively London neighbourhood, will be transformed into a hub of activity as over 60 antique, vintage, and art dealers from across the UK come together to showcase their wares. Visitors can expect to find a curated selection of fine art, antiques, and vintage pieces. The 18 shops and galleries on Church Street and 80 dealers from the renowned Alfies Antique Market will be open on the day too. Visitors can also enjoy artisan food, music, and entertainment from 11am to 5pm.

To stay updated on the latest information, follow them on social media *@thechurchstreetantiquesfair* or visit their website at *churchstreetantiquesfair.com*

Dealer in 15th to 19th century Chinese Porcelain



Pictured is a very rare Chinese export porcelain teapot and cover decorated in opaque enamels of the *famille rose (fencai)* palette, with the arms of the States General after a Dutch ducatoon minted by the VOC and dated 1728, around the rim is the motto Concordia Res Parvae Crescunt, Yongzheng reign, Qing dynasty.

The Dutch East India Company, whose initials (VOC) are from its native name, was the first modern multinational corporation with powers and competence of a nation given by the government. The VOC could declare war, have a war navy, mint currency, conquer lands and sign treaties with foreign governments.

The design for this teapot was wholly based on a gold ducatoon minted at the beginning of the Yongzheng reign. This is one of the very rare dated Chinese export porcelain items and one of the earliest and most important.

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They have two upcoming auctions; one will be compiled of four estates which will see over 1,000 fine lots of unseen lifetime collections under the hammer on 6 June, followed by their aforementioned signature catalogue sale a month later towards the end of July.

Stay up to date by visiting *hutchinsonscott.co.uk* and sign up to their weekly newsletter, or email *sales@hutchinsonscott.co.uk* to enquire further.



Experience *Phantom Dance*

ELIZABETH XI BAUER

For this exhibition at Elizabeth Xi Bauer Gallery, Theodore Ereira-Guyer has created a spectacle of multiple double-sided stacks of large format etchings that have been installed so that they hang from the gallery ceiling to form a false wall which intersects the space. Created using different hues and densities of green, these etchings have been sewn onto silk and stitched together to create objects with architectural qualities. In addition, Ereira-Guyer has created new sculptures comprising portraits made of bronze as well as animal figures conceived by etching into plaster.

Surfaces in Ereira-Guyer's new etchings might at first appear to be corroding into absence, as the artist employs acidic washes that slowly erase the original image; however, the result reveals a process full of life. Due to the choice of a green pigment, the squares become like gardens that are affirming and full of vitality.

Ereira-Guyer's work has been exhibited internationally and is held in private and public collections including the Victoria and Albert Museum, British Museum, Tate, Museum of Modern Art, Yale Center for British Art, Centre Pompidou, and the Gulbenkian Museum. This week, *Progressive Navigation* (2015) by Theodore Ereira-Guyer sold for £48,260, including fees, in Phillips' *Wired* sale. This was the artist's auction debut with the hammer price over four times the high estimate.

Ereira-Guyer's works are in dialogue with those by Thiago Barbalho. Barbalho grew up in northern Brazil surrounded by vivid tropical colours that compete for visibility among entangled fruits, flowers, and leaves. This inspiration is clear in his works; his images also often contain colliding bodies and cosmic compositions that float in endless space. The appearance of handwritten scrawl developed after Barbalho's previous life as a writer and publisher. Barbalho's works are part of institutional collections such as Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo. The artist was included in the *Vitamin D3: Today's Best in Contemporary Drawing*, published by Phaidon in 2021. He was nominated for the Pipa Prize in 2019.

***Phantom Dance* runs until 3 June at the Elizabeth Xi Bauer Gallery, open Wednesday to Saturday, from 12 to 6pm or by appointment. Elizabeth Xi Bauer Gallery, Fuel Tank, 8-12 Creekside, London, SE8 3DX. Visit *elizabethxibauer.com* to find out more.**

Halo Fine Art, Dorchester



Halo Fine Art is a stunning contemporary fine art gallery that proudly displays a diverse collection of exceptional signed limited editions, magnificent originals, and striking sculptures located in Brewery Square, Dorchester. The gallery prides itself on showcasing an array of esteemed UK artists, including the highly acclaimed Doug Hyde and Duncan MacGregor, alongside globally recognised names and modern masters such as Fabian Perez, Sherree Valentine Daines and Mr. Brainwash.

As a distinguished venue, Halo Fine Art regularly curates and hosts inspirational events throughout the year, providing visitors a unique and immersive experience in the world of fine art. From exhibitions to exclusive showcases, the gallery's innovative events offer art enthusiasts a chance to explore the diverse styles and expressions of today's most exceptional artists.

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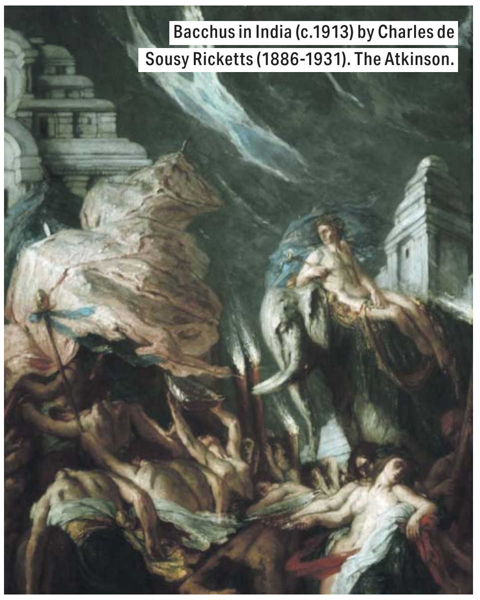
The Story So Far

THE ATKINSON

A new exhibition looks at the collections of two North West galleries, The Atkinson in Southport and the Harris Art Gallery in Preston. Titled *The Story So Far*, the exhibition explores the captivating art of storytelling through a variety of narrative paintings that the two galleries hold.

Storytelling was a major part of British art throughout the 19th century. Well-known stories from history, classic literature, myth and legend were commonplace in paintings and sculpture. Rural subjects with a simple narrative were also popular, often with a moralising or instructive overtone.

In the 20th century the subject became less important and the instructive and descriptive functions of art faded away as more abstract and conceptual forms of art became mainstream. However, many artists have continued to hint at a narrative and to reference topical issues and concerns in their work.



Bacchus in India (c.1913) by Charles de Sousy Ricketts (1886-1931). The Atkinson.



Bird Scaring – March (1896) by George Clausen (1852–1944). Harris Museum & Art Gallery.

Both galleries are actively acquiring contemporary art that references the original themes and underlying ideas of their early collections, creating an ongoing dialogue between the past and the present.

Featured artists include George Clausen, John Collier, Dame Laura Knight, LS Lowry, Shanti Panchal, Charles de Sousy Ricketts and Walter Sickert.

The exhibition is taking place from 27 May 2023 to 2 March 2024. It is open Monday to Saturday, from 10am to 4pm, with free entry at The Atkinson, Lord Street, Southport, PR8 1DB. Visit *theatkinson.co.uk* to find out more.

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Kealey Farmer's mixed-media artworks captivate viewers with their fusion of abstract elements and vibrant colours. Her pieces evoke emotions and invite viewers to embark on imaginative journeys. Recognised internationally, collectors and investors highly seek after Farmer's work.

JJ Adams, known for his innovative blend of pop culture and urban art, offers a fresh perspective on contemporary art. By reimagining iconic figures and incorporating diverse mediums, Adams creates visually striking and thought-provoking pieces.

Paul Oz specialises in capturing the energy and movement of renowned sports icons, immortalising them in bronze and paint. These sculptures hold immense aesthetic value and serve as valuable collectables, attracting sports enthusiasts and art connoisseurs alike.



These artists' works have demonstrated significant growth over the past decade, and investing in these modern classics represents a promising opportunity. Bloom Fine Art acts as a gateway to this world of art investment. With a curated collection of exceptional pieces, the gallery offers investors diverse options.

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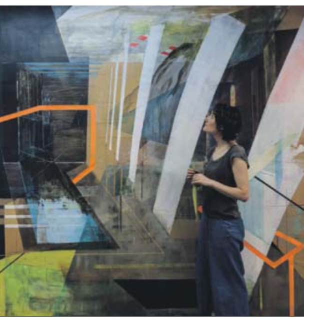
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The FirePit Company

New vegan-certified, plant-based mattress collection

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Named the Plant Comfort collection and certified by the Vegan Society, it takes over 10 hours for a small team of exceptionally skilled artisans to hand-tailor each plant-based mattress.





A culmination of over two decades of bed-making excellence; Wrought Iron and Brass Bed Co's new collection of plant-based mattresses draws upon nature for a sustainably balanced night's sleep. Each mattress is hand-crafted and guaranteed to last for at least 10 years.

Soft layers of cotton, flax, hemp and bamboo are laid above and below a supportive spring unit – offering optimum support and comfort. Using needle and thread, their expert artisans spend hours stitching and tufting each mattress by hand, ensuring the plant-based natural fibres remain in place for a perfect night's slumber. Each material works in unison to create a mattress that regulates your body temperature and forms a breathable and soothing sleep environment.

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Open by appointment only at *tuscanpots.co.uk* or scan the QR code. For details or enquiries please contact Robert by email at *robertmoy@tuscanpots.co.uk* or call him on 07891 986862.

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Buckingham Pools deliver award-winning, bespoke pool design and build projects nationwide across commercial and residential sectors.

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Buckingham Pools' vast knowledge base of all types of pools showcases the latest technological advancements, detailed CAD designs, and best-practice build methodology. Elevate your space further with excellent heat treatment room choices, including saunas, custom-built and tiled steam rooms, hammam chambers, heated loungers, salt rooms, experience showers and ice stations.

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Sow, grow and maintain your new lawn

The Grass People

Quality is simple. This is the motto of The Grass People, that helped them to create their nine-strong homeowners grass seed range, catering for every lawn from family lawns to 'don't-walk-on-the-lawn lawns'. They believe that superb quality grass seed (you know, the stuff that actually works) should be easy to find, buy online and get delivered to your doorstep.

At *thegrasspeople.com* you can access all the information you need to sow, grow and maintain your new lawn in one handy place. And if you need a little bit of extra advice, they have a team of experts waiting to help.



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The Grass People have been winners of the Feefo Platinum Trusted Service Award for consistently providing excellent products and service every year since 2019.

Find them at *thegrasspeople.com/lawn*

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Bring a bit of the Mediterranean into your garden this spring with Pizza Oven Supplies.

More people have started to entertain outside, turning a corner of their garden into an outdoor kitchen, dining and entertaining area. The humble barbeque has started to be replaced or enhanced with a pizza oven.



Available in any colour

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Maintenance-free garden furniture



Lazy Susan were founded in 2007 by Michael Scott from his shed in West Sussex. After years of struggling to maintain his own teak garden table it became clear that the long-term solution was not to fight a losing battle with wood, but rather use cast aluminium to make garden furniture. After much searching, product testing and deliberation, Michael found a range that fit the bill, and Lazy Susan were born.

Maintenance free and totally rust proof, their aluminium pieces do not rust, warp or rot – and can be left outside all year. Their designs are classic, and so is the sand casting process they use to build them, which can be traced back to 4000 BC.

With a wide range of designs to choose from, it is easy to find the perfect piece for your lawn, patio or balcony. You can also shop for finishing touches such as cushions and parasols in a variety of shades to complete the set.

Get 10% off with code GDN10. Valid until 3 June 2023. Order now at *lazysusan.co.uk* or call the customer service team on 01243 684 169.

Lazy Susan

Turn a house into a home

First impressions count, especially when it comes to your home – skirting boards shouldn't be an afterthought.

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Many of their products are made with medium-density fibreboard (MDF). Their high-density MDF has more wood fibres packed into it – which is better looking and smoother – and also keeps its look much longer and doesn't decompose as quickly as most standard boards. When properly looked after, a high-density MDF board will last a lifetime, backed by Skirting World's 25-year guarantee.





They offer nationwide delivery using their own fleet of vehicles, which has enabled them to deliver faster and more efficiently than ever before – and their standard delivery is free. This has helped them reduce their use of cardboard and plastic as well.

Check out everything they have to offer and use the discount code below for 10% off any online order!

Use code HMSW10 for 10% off any online order at *mdfskirtingworld.co.uk*

Expires 30 June 2023.

Summer-ready lawns with drought protection



Lawns are so much more than grass carpets. They're sanctuaries of wellbeing that complete garden visions. That's why GreenThumb programmes have evolved to save you time and trouble; perfecting the weed-free, healthy lawn that everyone wants.

Their innovative treatments – like Oasis – can reduce watering requirements by up to 80%. Their exclusive fertilisers are best-in class; designed to slow-release nutritional ingredients based on the time of year, temperature and moisture levels.

As founding members of the Lawn Assured Standard, GreenThumb engage in sustainability conversations and promote the wellbeing benefits that a green lawn fosters for both people and the planet.

Check out their Share The Lawn Love campaign, which has adopted over 160 lawns – and counting – around the UK, supporting deserving individuals, families and communities.

Share the Lawn Love

GreenThumb LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE

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Travel

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'Muted colours and plant-forward food replace glittering chandeliers and gold leaf'

Francisca Kellett gives a reborn Viennese palace a whirl



Borgo Egnazia, Fasano

Where to stay in Puglia

From simple seaside masserias to grand old palazzos, Julia Buckley knows the best places to book in this enchanting region of south Italy

'The new Tuscany' some call Puglia — wrongly, because nowhere is quite like the heel of Italy's boot. Whitewashed towns shimmer on hilltops like mirages. Net-laden fishing boats snooze below creamy-stoned palazzos in elegant seaside villages. One minute you can be walking along the rocky Adriatic coast, the next you're at a Roman harbour, an ancient city unfurling behind.

Time-travelling is a given here. Unlike Renaissance-centric Italy further north, Puglia is a land of prehistoric dolmens slumbering amid centuries-old olive groves, its coastline speared with Saracen-repelling watchtowers, its ravines and caves dug out to form houses and medieval churches. The food is unlike anywhere else: veg-heavy *cucina povera* — peasant food — grown in the fiery red earth. A Pugliese aperitivo platter means dish after dish of intricate vegetable delights.

Puglia is huge, but the best bits are in three areas. Radiating out from Bari, the regional capital, you'll find a coastline dusted with bijou fishing villages to the south, and the Valle d'Itria, with its famous trulli houses on a plateau above. West of Bari, dramatic canyonlands splinter the border with Basilicata. Two hours north is the Gargano peninsula: the mountainous spur of the boot, home to a national park and pristine beaches. The stiletto tip south of Brindisi is the sizzling Salento peninsula, where the Ionian and Adriatic seas fuse. It's a land of sleepy villages, baroque architecture around Lecce, and two spectacular coastlines: dramatic corniches on the east, wild sandy beaches on the west. Italian beaches are mostly manicured and privatised; Puglia's rocky coves and sandy sweeps are an exception.

Puglia's hotel scene is as unique as the region itself. This is the land of



Masseria Calderisi, Fasano

Great hotels next page



Albergo Diffuso, Monopoli



Canne Bianche, Torre Canne



Polignano a Mare's famous cliffs



Masseria Torre Maizza, Fasano

masserie: ancient farms, fortified against invaders, which now as swish country house hotels welcome foreigners (there's a beach-adjacent cluster around Fasano and Savelletri). Its tangled town centres, often emptied by postwar migration, are also a hub for *alberghi diffusi*, or "scattered hotels", where abandoned houses dotted around town are converted into rooms.

Down at heel? Not a chance.

RURAL

Naturalis Bio Resort & Spa Martano

Naturalis was bought as a working farm to produce organic ingredients for the Pugliese skincare company N&B. This is the place to be if you want to get hands-on. Guests can take part in harvesting olives and grapes and can help with the extraction of aloe vera gel. Sound like too much work? Kick back in your room — named after a crop, from lavender to pink pepper, and even themed and colour-paletted accordingly — by the palm-shaded saltwater pool, or at the restaurant, where much of the produce comes straight from the farm. The spa, of course, uses "homemade" N&B products.

Details B&B doubles from £209 (naturalisbioresort.com). Fly to Brindisi

At the Aia Nardo

Sick of the rat race, New Yorker Giulia Stasi moved to the land of her ancestors in 2015, turning this pastel-pink villa outside Nardo, one of Salento's frothy baroque towns, into a boho B&B. Less manicured than a masseria, it's more a simple home-from-home than a place made for Instagram. Fill up on bread with homemade cakes and jam at breakfast, spend the morning by the pool, or get active with one of the thrice-weekly yoga classes or by taking Stasi's electric bikes for a spin (she can also provide a packed lunch). To go full boho, there are regular residential workshops, from a ceramics and cooking combo to trauma cleansing.

Details B&B doubles from £97 (attheaia.com). Fly to Brindisi

Masseria Storica Pilapalucci Toritto

Inland from Bari, bordering the Alta Murgia national park, this is a very different Puglia from chi-chi fishing villages and trulli towns (see below). Surrounded by oak, almond and olive trees, the 16th-century masseria once sat on the main route from Bari to Matera, prime territory for bandits in past centuries, which explains the thick, austere walls and the high watchtower. It's been beautifully updated to 21st-century holiday standards, with flashes of exposed stone amid the whitewashed walls, rooms furnished with antiques, a pool and a monastery-like restaurant, its arched roof sculpted from Puglia's trademark creamy stone. The farm's almonds have official Slow Food ranking and appear everywhere, from almond cakes at breakfast to almond pesto with wild herbs on homemade pasta for dinner.

Details B&B doubles from £79 (sawdays.co.uk). Fly to Bari

Trullidea Alberobello

New York has skyscrapers; Puglia has trulli — those delectable "hobbit houses" with conical roofs that look straight out of a fairytale. The dinky size that makes them so delightful, however, doesn't lend itself to easily making a trullo hotel — which is why you'll mostly find them expanded into villas. Enter Trullidea, in Alberobello — whose Unesco-protected centre is made up entirely of trulli. An albergo diffuso (it was Puglia's first) of 15th-century trulli, its ten properties are scattered along three streets of the historic Rione Monti district. Breakfast is served in your trullo on request — and there are no phones or TVs, so you can trulli (sorry) immerse yourselves in history.

Details B&B doubles from £123 (trullidea.com). Fly to Bari

Masseria Le Carrube near Ostuni

If the masseria scene around Fasano feels too fancy, slide half an hour south to the olive groves below Ostuni, the "white city" — so called because of its gleaming white buildings that flash atop the hillside. Le Carrube ("the carob trees") is owned by the Melpignano family, who are also behind Borgo Egnazia (see below), but the atmosphere is more boho than brash. The rooms are simple but you're here for the restaurant, which serves vegetarian and vegan food, all grown on site, in a pared-back setting (six courses £43). Don't miss the Sunday lunchtime buffet spread — hands down one of the best meals in Puglia.

Details B&B doubles from £122 (masserialecarrubeostuni.it). Fly to Brindisi

La Chiusa delle More Gargano

Set back from the coast on a hill swathed in gnarled olive trees, this beautiful 16th-century farmhouse is lovingly run by Antonella and Francesco Martucci, who serve up a spread of cakes, croissants and fresh ricotta every morning in front of the olive groves. You can glimpse the sea, just 500m away (the nearest town is famously pretty Peschici) but this spot is all about the countryside, and the heavy peace of the Gargano peninsula. In fact, there's little need to leave the property — there's a small pool and the restaurant turns local products into wonderful home-cooked food.

Details B&B doubles from £209 (lachiusadellemore.it). Fly to Pescara

Masseria Torre Maizza Fasano

This is one of the classics when it comes to masserias, bought by Rocco Forte in 2018, and reopened the next year after an Olga Polizzi overhaul. Where other masseria conversions go big on the neutrals, she has transformed the 16th-century farmhouse into a colourful, almost urban affair, with groovy patterned headboards and two-tone curtains in the bedrooms and crisp chequered flooring in the Carosello restaurant (set in the old stables). And where other local five-stars have beach clubs on the nearby rocks at Savelletri, here a shuttle will whisk you five miles north to the Lido Bambù, a beach club on a sandy stretch near Monopoli.

Details B&B doubles from £375 (roccofortehotels.com). Fly to Brindisi



Masseria Procacci Gargano

You're a mere four miles from the beach at Rodi Garganico, but a world away from summer coastal mayhem. Flanked by olive trees and centuries-old oaks, it's that bucolic idyll you've been searching for. The Procacci family already owned a beach resort in the area, but this hotel, opened in 2022, is their first foray into country life. There are just six rooms in a block outside the main farmhouse, all simply styled. If you fancy a foray into the Gargano National Park up above, they have ebikes to work off the dishes made with home-grown oil, jam and vegetables served in their farm-to-table restaurant.

Details B&B doubles from £78 (masseriaprocaci.com). Fly to Pescara

COASTAL

Borgobianco Resort & Spa Polignano a Mare

Just a little way inland from Polignano a Mare's famous cliffs (the fishing town is known for its heart-in-mouth cliff-diving competitions), Borgobianco injects a five-star feel into a sprawling masseria. The 48 rooms surround a sweeping courtyard while private balconies are cantilevered over ancient olive groves or look out towards the distant sea. You can glimpse the waves from the manicured pool area, or retreat to the 1,000 sq m spa. It's part of Accor's MGallery brand, yet doesn't feel like a regular chain hotel.



ALAMY; VALERIO NAPOLETANO



Borgo Egnazia, Fasano



Baglioni Masseria Muzza, Otranto

Details Seven nights' B&B from £1,520pp, including flights and transfers (citalia.com)

B&B Dei Serafini
Polignano a Mare

Just 25 miles south of Bari, dinky Polignano a Mare is one of Puglia's prettiest fishing villages. This family-run albergo diffuso has its rooms drizzled around the chi-chi centre — you might be in a delectable, blue-tiled room overlooking the olive-fringed piazza, or in a two-bed apartment with a terrace overlooking the sea. The rooms may be far apart, but everyone comes together for breakfast at the Nistrio family's bar, cantilevered over the water.
Details B&B doubles from £104 (deiserafini.it). Fly to Bari

Masseria Montelauro
Otranto

Just under two miles inland from Otranto, this beautifully simple masseria has been going strong with no fanfare since 2003. Unesco itself gave the owner, Elisabetta Massaro, and her daughters, Caterina and Mercedes, a nod for the faithful conversion of the 19th-century farmhouse, but it has thoroughly 21st-century eco-credentials too — solar panels provide hot water, it's a plastic-free property, and waste water is purified and reused to water the orchard. Rooms are chic but super-simple — lots of creamy exposed stone, whitewashed walls, wrought-iron beds and pretty duck-egg shutters — while the garden is dotted with bushy fig, pear and olive trees, that make a stroll to the swimming pool feel like a walking meditation. The overwhelming peace might have something to do with the medieval monastery that was here before the masseria — or maybe it's down to the neolithic dolmen in an olive grove down the road.
Details B&B doubles from £192 (masseriamontelauro.it). Fly to Brindisi

Baglioni Masseria Muzza Otranto

The super-chic Italian hotel brand Baglioni opened this, its country retreat, in June 2022. Down in sizzling Salento — the stiletto heel of Italy's boot — it's a five-minute drive from Baia dei Turchi, a macchia shrubland-backed, crystalline-water beach that's among the most popular on Salento's east coast, as well as from the two Alimini lakes (Piccolo and Grande) where you can kayak during summer. The hotel is a 17th-century masseria in five acres of grounds. Rooms are in what used to be barns and stables, dressed in those biscuity neutrals that scream masseria-chic. There's a free shuttle to a nearby sandy beach, and Otranto — with its jaw-dropping 12th-century mosaic "carpet" in the cathedral — is just three miles south.
Details B&B doubles from £467 (baglioni.com). Fly to Brindisi

Albergo Diffuso
Monopoli

Park outside the walls of the honey-hued fishing village Monopoli, and you'll be met in full Italian style by an Ape — the mini scooter-trucks seen everywhere — to whisk you and your luggage past the 16th-century Aragonese castle and into the alleyways of the centro storico. This is a glorious mishmash of an albergo diffuso: they've made rooms out of everything from cave-like fishing cottages (Suite Scirocco is particularly romantic) to aristocratic palazzos. If you've never tried an albergo diffuso, this is the ideal starter — it's more compact and hotel-like, with all the rooms in village buildings within 200m of the reception.
Details B&B doubles from £74 (albergodiffusomonopoli.it). Fly to Bari

Borgo Egnazia Fasano

This is the daddy of them all: a sprawling resort built as a near-perfect replica of a southern Italian village, complete with bell tower in the little piazzetta. And how people love it: Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel married here; Madonna and the Beckhams have been among the guests. A central masseria-style building houses a "hotel" of 63 suites, while those after more privacy can rent a *casette* (mini houses, with private terraces and often courtyards) or independent *case* (villas, which come with their own cook). There's a spa, kids' club, indoor and outdoor pools, while the decor is rustic-luxe: all beiges, biscuits, creams and wheats, with sprigs of dried plants, onions and, yes, wheat, hung from walls and slung from ceilings.
Details B&B doubles from £287 (borgoegnazia.com). Fly to Bari

Masseria Calderisi
Fasano

Built in 1658, this olive farm joined the ranks of masserias at Savelletri — on the coast outside Fasano — in 2021. While the rustic-luxe look is similar to the neighbours, what sets it apart is the size. That's the size of the rooms (bigger than expected) and the grounds around it (an 18m pool, lashings of seating between the building, and olive groves, citrus and almond trees embracing it all). La Corte restaurant showcases produce grown on the estate, and guests can pick their own vegetables and herbs to use as toppings at chef Pietro's pizza classes. Two rescue donkeys and a clutch of chickens are among the residents.
Details B&B doubles from £353 (masseriacalderisi.com). Fly to Brindisi

Canne Bianche
Torre Canne

Most Pugliese hotels are going for a rural boho vibe; this one, right on the seafront, about five miles south of masseria-filled Savelletri, injects a little modern Italian glitz, from its slick white-stone lobby and pictureless frames on the walls, to the gauze-wrapped daybeds on the lawn, right by the water. There's a pool too, and rooms walk the line between rustic and slick, with moody monochrome photos of Puglia, plus balconies or lovely patios even for the entry-level ones. Several times a month they have tarantella nights, where you can learn Puglia's traditional dance of wild abandon.
Details B&B doubles from £125 (slh.com). Fly to Brindisi

Il Giardino Grande
Gallipoli

A 20-minute drive inland from the delectable seaside town Gallipoli, Il Giardino Grande sits in the pancake-flat Salento countryside just outside the town of Parabita. Rather than a masseria, this is a dimora — more or less, a "home". It was built in the 19th century as the summer pad of local aristocracy; today, it's owned by siblings Valentina and Marco, who returned to their Pugliese roots from Milan to open this in 2022. The original building has been joined by another to turn this into a spacious six-room hotel of vaulted ceilings and traditional cocciopesto floors (a plastering technique that dates from Roman times). Valentina used to work for luxury hotel groups including Mandarin Oriental and Bulgari, so there's more than meets the eye to this country pad. Roses and jasmine scent the garden, there's a pool and small church, while a 100-year-old olive tree connects the old and new wings of the property. Breakfast is served in the *hortus conclusus*, or enclosed garden.
Details B&B doubles from £186 (ilgiardinogrande.com). Fly to Brindisi

TOWN & CITY

La Fiermontina Lecce

When other Pugliese hoteliers were nailing the art of the masseria, siblings Fouad Giacomo and Antonia Yasmina — of Pugliese origin via Paris and Morocco — decided to open the kind of refined city hotel that southern Italy had rarely seen. La Fiermontina opened in 2015: 16 rooms in a honey-stone baroque retreat within Lecce's city walls. Not that you'd know you were in the centre; out the back is a beautiful garden stuffed with herbs (which end up on your plate at dinner), striking sculptures, and a

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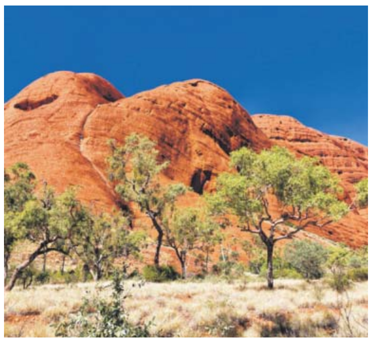
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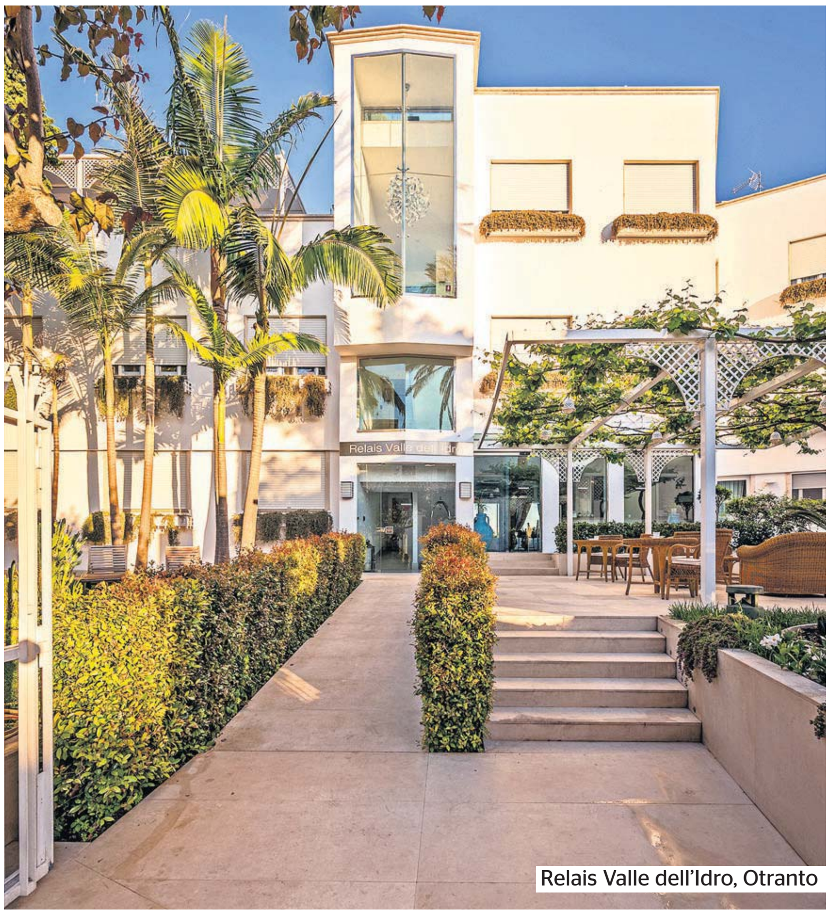
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IATA


Relais Valle dell'Idro, Otranto

▶ bijou pool surrounded by gnarled olive trees. City escapes don't get much better.
Details B&B doubles from £374 (lafiermontinacollection.com). Fly to Brindisi

Villaggio Vecchia Mottola Mottola

This was one of Italy's most characterful alberghi diffusi: a collection of rooms converted from abandoned houses in the centre of Mottola, a hilltop town in western Puglia. There's not much to do in Mottola itself, though the Valle d'Itria, Bari, Monopoli and Matera are all under an hour's drive away, but from 1999 the founder Ozvaldo Zazzara drew visitors from all over the world with his warm hospitality and passion for his town. Retiring in December, he sold to another local family who have restyled the 14 rooms from super-rustic to bright Ikea-chic, and are adding more — as well as a breakfast area — this year. Until then, breakfast is at one of two local bars — the dolce vita, as Zazzara intended. A new website will be up next month.
Details B&B doubles from £52 (vecchiamottola.com). Fly to Bari

SoTrani Temporary House Trani

Most of Puglia's posh hotel scene is concentrated south of Bari, which makes Trani — a beautiful town 30 minutes up the coast — rich pickings for smaller stays. Enter SoTrani: a delectable two-room B&B in the centro storico, by Campo dei Longobardi and the Chiazz, a medieval open-air market that operated for 700 years. Valeria Barile converted the first-floor apartment next to her own to create this real home-from-home. In the morning, she lays out a homemade breakfast spread in the communal area (and kitchenette) between the rooms.
Details B&B doubles from £83 (sotrani.it). Fly to Bari

Palazzo Tafuri Nardo

This year's exciting urban opening has to be Palazzo Tafuri, in swaggering, baroque-filled Nardo, about 20 miles southwest of Lecce. The 17 rooms and suites are a mix of past and present: 18th-century prints, mid-century furniture, high-arched ceilings of creamy local stone. Unusually for a town-centre property there's a pool, straddling the indoors and outdoors, plus a small spa, where you can have massages and facials or DIY it in the sauna, steam room or hot tub. The restaurant is going great guns to become a gourmet joint.
Details B&B doubles from £345 (furtherafield.com). Fly to Brindisi


Palazzo Sant'Anna, Lecce

Palazzo Sant'Anna Lecce

Lovely Lecce is on full display from the terraces of the three buildings making up this 20-room hotel in the middle of the old city. Two baroque palazzos and a 14th-century structure make up a semi-scattered hotel, although the buildings are all connected, and you can walk between them all. Did you sleep well? Put that down to vastu shastra, an ancient Indian "bio-energetic" type of architecture that's said to release good vibes, rather like feng shui. Or it might be the organic hemp and lime stuffed into the walls to keep things natural.
Details B&B doubles from £227 (vretreats.com). Fly to Brindisi

Relais Valle dell'Idro Otranto

A step up from the bijou fishing villages, Otranto is one of Puglia's loveliest seaside towns and a great base for road-tripping Salento's east coast. And this is one of its loveliest hotels: a simple but chic boutique property with views of the bay from the rooftop solarium and hot tub (book a session in advance). Rooms are jaunty and sun-soaked — even the cheapest category (called "budget" with glorious honesty) offers large windows and rustic rattan fittings, from the bedsteads to the lamps. There's a dinky spa next to the small gym.
Details B&B doubles from £104 (valledellidro.com). Fly to Brindisi

Torre del Parco Lecce

Before Lecce was beautified by florid baroque palazzos, there was this: a medieval fortress just outside the city centre. Its once deliberately unwelcoming walls have been transformed into a plush hotel — but one that still lives its history, with original frescoes on the walls and antiques scattered throughout. Not that the rooms feel heavy; antique cupboards and tables are paired with modern elements, from flashy chandeliers to cool tiled floors and brightly painted doors. Breakfast is served in the courtyard in summer. Never was a castle so welcoming to outsiders.
Details B&B doubles from £83 (torredelparco.com). Fly to Brindisi



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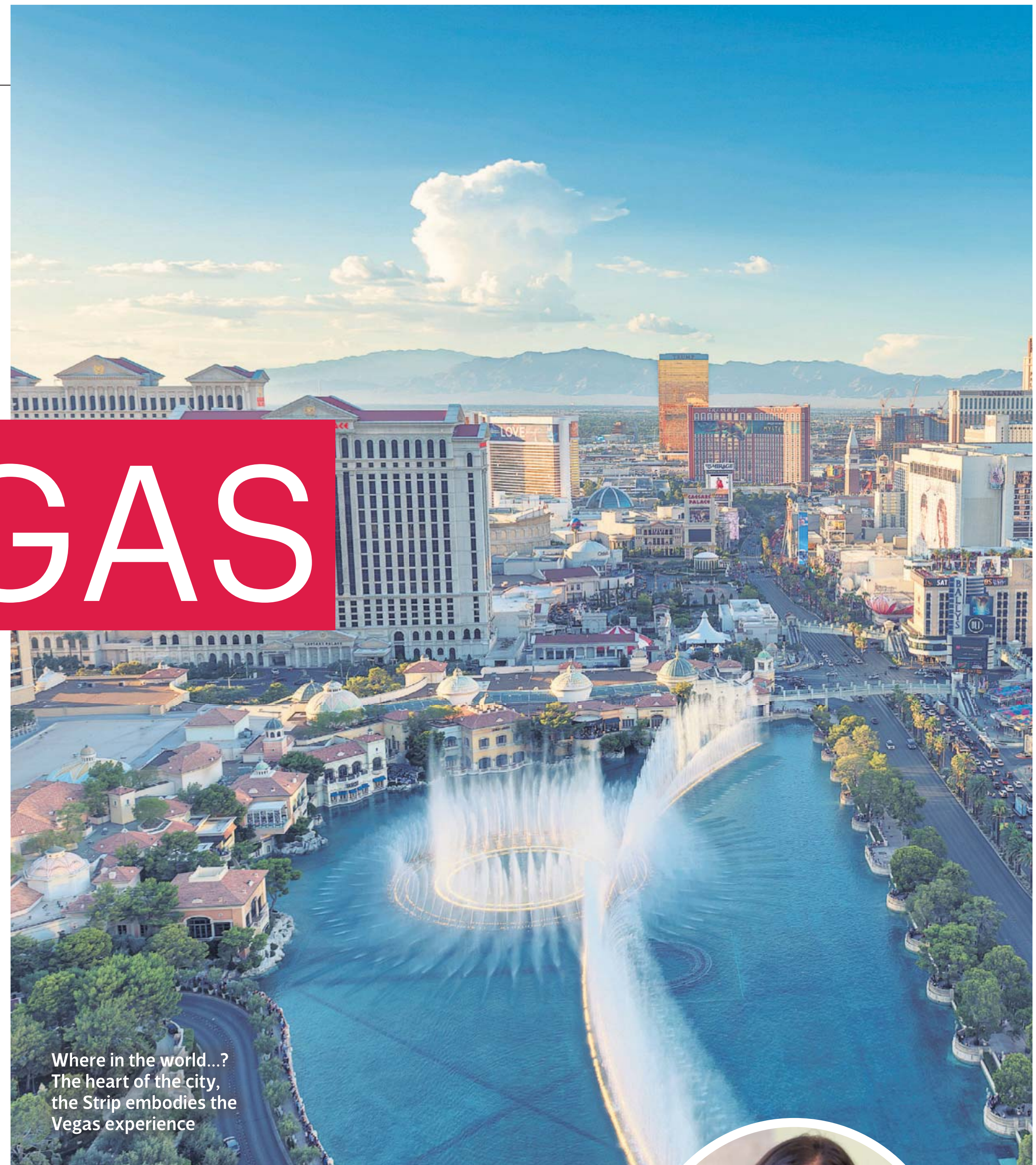
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VIVA LAS VEGAS



Where in the world...? The heart of the city, the Strip embodies the Vegas experience

Feel the need for speed? Excited about world-class shows and fine dining? Or do you just want to shop till you drop? Las Vegas has it all – these expert guides reveal the top spots

It is fair to say that Las Vegas can be all things to all people when it needs to be, but as well as being a little of everything for everyone, it's also crammed with unique experiences.

From adrenaline-fuelled "drift rides" hurtling passengers around a racetrack, to immersive fine-dining, these are the activities that surprise and delight even regular visitors to the city, proving that just when you think you know Las Vegas, you really don't.

To help you get the most out of your holiday, four experts share their insider knowledge and advice on the most exciting and sought-after destinations and experiences in Vegas.

And getting there couldn't be easier. With Virgin Atlantic flying daily from Heathrow to Las Vegas, your holiday starts the second you step onboard.



Fabulous performances

Local tour guide **Lydia Penn** gives her top entertainment tips for newbies to the Strip, and outlines the unmissable shows

One of the reasons Las Vegas is known as the entertainment capital of the world is because we have so many world-class venues. Among our newest is Allegiant Stadium, which hosts huge concerts such as Taylor Swift's Eras Tour. Later this year, the MSG Sphere is opening with stadium legends U2 playing the first shows.

When people think of Las Vegas, they immediately think of the Strip, but there's so much more to the city, such as its thriving local music scene.

I live in downtown Vegas and we have a creative community here called the Arts District, which is full of locally owned restaurants and entertainment venues. You can wander into a restaurant any night of the week and see an amazing local musician playing. We also have the monthly First Friday event, where a full-on street fair takes over whole blocks of the downtown area, and bars and shops open their doors to support local artists and musicians. It's a great way to check out the scene.

> "Enjoy live music for free most evenings at the LINQ Promenade"

One of the best concerts I've been to was Katy Perry at Resorts World. It has a state-of-the-art space and she brought the entire theatre to life. Katy is at Resorts World until November.

I'm also a sucker for classic Cirque du Soleil shows. Lots of people consider "O" by Cirque du Soleil at the Bellagio to be their best show – it has lots of water and acrobats diving into pools – although my favourite is KÀ by Cirque du Soleil at MGM Grand Hotel and Casino. But honestly, they are all amazing.

There is always so much going on, so my advice is to pick one or two things to focus on. On the tours I organise, I tell my first-timers to go to a show – maybe magic such as Shin Lim at The Mirage Hotel & Casino or a variety act like Absinthe at Caesars Palace. When it comes to residencies, Adele is at Caesars Palace in June to continue Weekends With Adele, while Usher has a Las Vegas Residency at Dolby Live at Park MGM.

But you don't have to leave the Strip for live entertainment. You can go to the LINQ Promenade where there will be live performances almost every evening, so you can just walk around and enjoy live music for free.

Guides to Vegas: above, Lydia Penn; top right, Hari Ghotra; right, Sivan Gavish



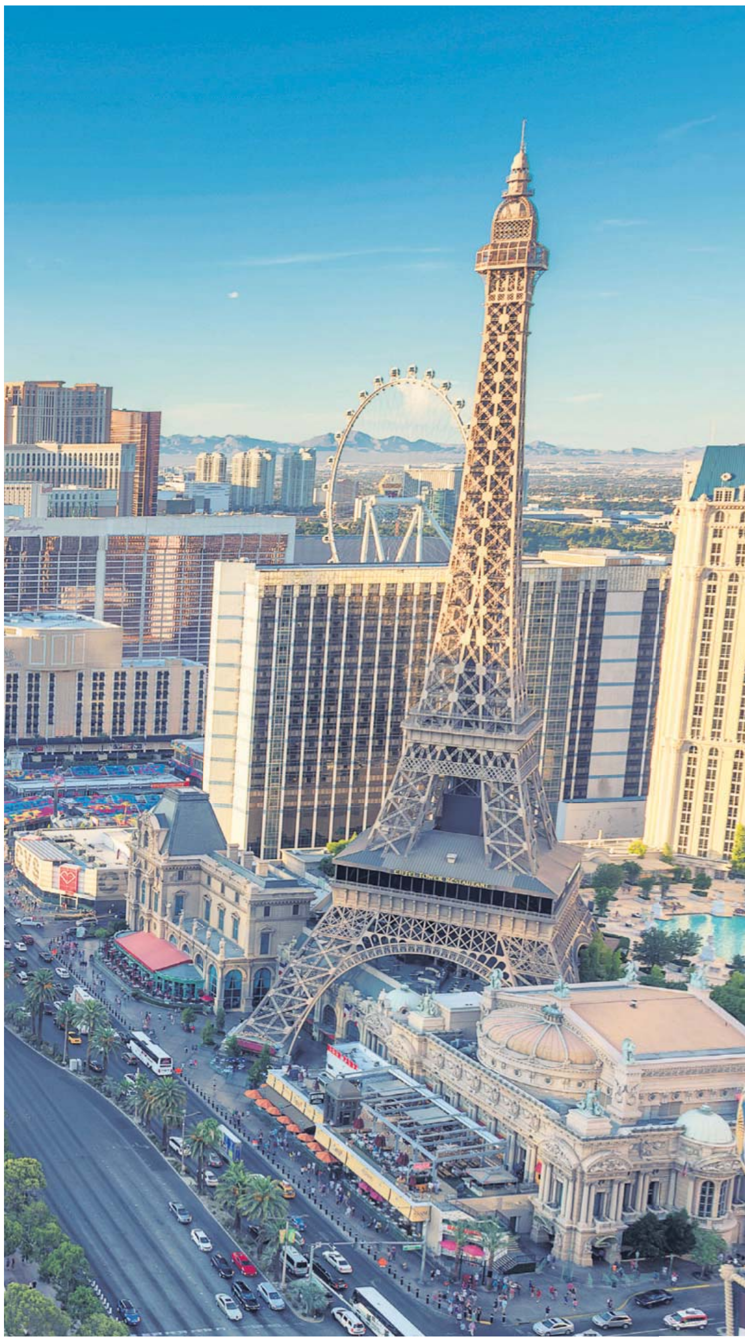
3 MUST-VISIT STORES FOR FASHION FANATICS

Las Vegas lifestyle blogger **Sivan Gavish** picks her favourite places in the city for a bit of retail therapy

1. Fergusons Downtown
One of the best places to shop. It used to be a motel and has now been turned into a retail complex.

2. The Forum Shops at Caesars
This is a mall on the Strip with a mix of boutiques and high-end luxury shops, and they have great restaurants, too. It's definitely somewhere to visit.

3. Local Oasis
A great downtown store, located in the vibrant Arts District, and probably my favourite place in Vegas for shopping. It's good for gifts and they have really cute clothing with handmade designs that you won't find anywhere else.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Dine out in style

Hari Ghotra, senior manager for inflight food development at Virgin Atlantic, gives her verdict on where to eat



The city has a massively dynamic food scene that evolves all the time. There's quite a big French influence, so you'll find lots of classic and modern French cuisine, all done in a very cool way. One restaurant I'd recommend is Wing Lei at Wynn Las Vegas, which is fantastic for Asian cuisine. It has a Michelin star, and the food and style are great.

One of the current top restaurants is é by José Andrés, which offers an eight-person-only dining experience. TAO Asian Bistro at the Venetian Resort Las Vegas is an exquisite fusion restaurant. It's beautiful, lots of red and black, and very immersive – the food aligns with everything you're seeing and feeling.

When we design our onboard menus, there are lots of considerations. It partly depends on the route. On a Las Vegas flight, most people are going out to have fun, so we'll tweak the menu slightly to help make sure their holiday starts on the plane journey.

We also think about seasonality and what's popular. For example, we know that cauliflower is popular at the moment, so the inbound flight from Vegas has cauliflower mousse with sauce vierge and a fennel dill salad as a starter.

The beverage side of things is also really important, whether that's serving wellness teas to help people feel comfortable or adapting our wines to the season, offering rosé in summer and darker reds in winter.

One of the highlights currently on our Upper Class menu is the togarashi-marinated halloumi poke bowl, with sushi rice, braised pineapple and seaweed salad. It is going down an absolute storm with our passengers. Our cold dessert option is a Pimm's o'clock summer pudding served with a swirl of cucumber. We always try to elevate the experience where we can.

A final thing that people cannot miss when they're in Vegas is going to one of the big buffets. The Buffet at Wynn Las Vegas is very extravagant, with its 16 kitchens, 90 dishes and extensive cocktails and wines – you can spend all day there grazing.

Go full throttle

Racing instructor and driver **Mark Tecson** reveals where adrenaline junkies can get their kicks in the city

People are looking to have a lot of fun in Vegas. Everyone is in a good mood, everyone wants to do something extra special – something they cannot do back home.

At Speed Vegas, where I work, we offer all kinds of ride-along experiences. People can do jumps on an off-road track in a truck, which gets around six or seven feet of air, or they can ride in a Ferrari or Lamborghini. We get those up to 130-135mph. But our drifting ride-along is another level of excitement. The car can get up to 120mph and it looks like it's out of control – it's sliding, it's spinning, the rear tyres are burning up – but we are in full control the whole time.

Drifting around the track in a $300,000 car is a pretty cool experience, it never gets old for me. Passengers have all sorts of reactions, they laugh, they cry, they close their eyes tight. It's a real adrenaline rush for them feeling the G-force in the car and getting thrown around.

There are tons of other fun things that make Las Vegas such an exciting city. If you love heights, there's the SkyJump at the The STRAT Hotel, Casino & SkyPod, which is a cross between bungee jumping and skydiving. There are also thrill rides on top of the hotel, including a roller coaster at more than 800-feet high.

We also have a lake, so you can do watersports such as wake surfing, jet skiing and flyboarding. Or you can be in the mountains in 30 minutes to go skiing. You could ski in the morning and be at a pool party for the afternoon!

Personally, I like mountain biking for an adventure, as I love getting outdoors. Going downhill on a bike can be a real rush. Mount Charleston and Bootleg Canyon are great places for biking, and both are nearby.

What I love about Vegas is there is a world for everyone. There are so many endless adventures here, we are just one of them.



Speed freak: Mark Tecson can take you drifting in a $300,000 car



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A clubhouse to call your own

The Clubhouse at London Heathrow is like a pre-trip mini holiday, featuring round-the-clock dining, relaxation areas and professionally mixed cocktails (don't miss the signature Virgin Redhead), plus Peloton bikes if you prefer working up a sweat. And don't worry, the Clubhouse is equipped with showers.

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Las Vegas

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Luxury Madagascar

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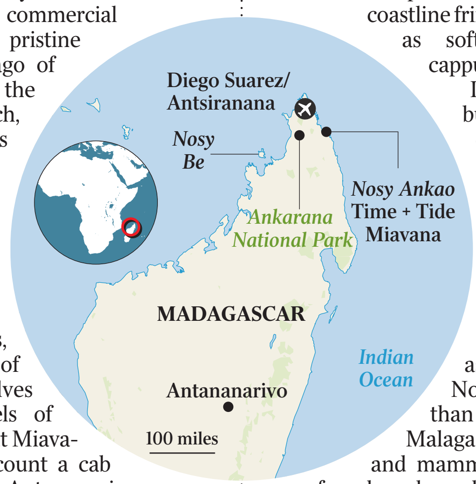


Susan d'Arcy follows in Tom Cruise's footsteps to an 'edge of the earth' retreat

I'm not a big Tom Cruise fan. I try to limit my dairy intake and his films tend to be seriously cheesy. His holiday choices, however, are a different matter. Take Miavana by Time+Tide, a private-island resort off Madagascar's northeast coast, where the actor recently stayed. It is such a barefoot beauty that, to quote Tom's hit movie *Jerry Maguire*, it had me at hello.

And I mean that literally. The stardust starts when the first Miavana representative greets me at the airport in Antsiranana (also known as Diego Suarez). Nick introduces himself as my personal helicopter pilot, a job description that must be about as 0.01 per cent as they get. His mission is to guarantee seamless travel in a destination where stress-free transportation is often impossible. Among ultra-high-net-worth tourists there is no greater cachet than a hotel so edge-of-the-earth remote that the logistics — not to mention the cost — involved in reaching it would leave the average travel planner dangerously emotional.

There are no commercial flights to the pristine Levens archipelago of five islands, the largest of which, Nosy Ankao, is home to Miavana; unpredictable seas make the three-hour boat trip from Diego memorable for all the wrong reasons, while driving any of the route involves Wild West levels of risk. Two guests at Miavana's bar later recount a cab ride in the capital, Antananarivo, on a moonless night along winding, potholed roads in a car with no headlights.



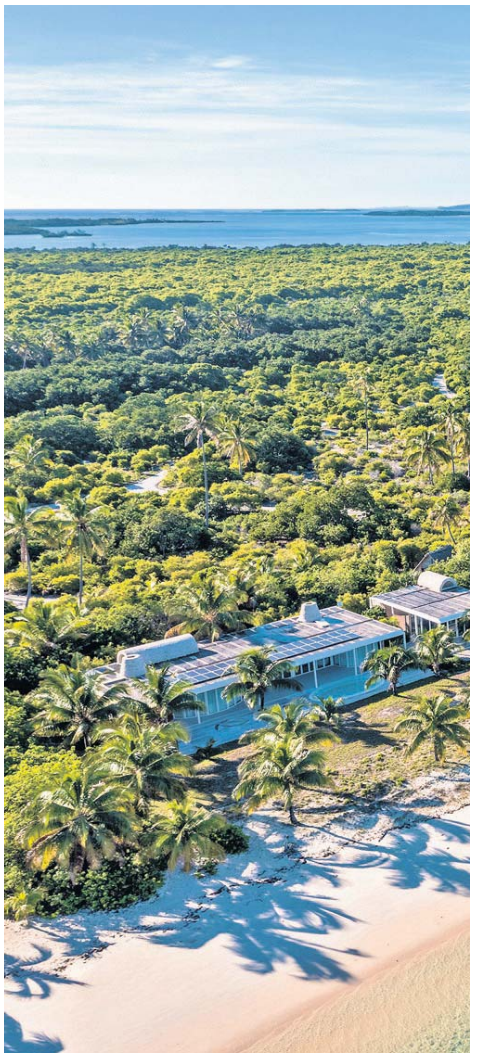
It's hard to see the world from the brace position, so I set aside environmental considerations to climb into one of the resort's two swanky Robinson R66 Turbines. Customised with Miavana's signature turquoise and white stripes and named Romulus (the other is Remus), it transforms a 30-minute transfer into an elegant aerial illustration of why David Attenborough considers Madagascar the most special place on earth.

We pass over an Indian Ocean every bit as Tiffany-blue as in the Maldives and similarly blessed with lonely lagoons, colourful reefs and plum-pudding islets, but here they brush up against the brooding hulk of Madagascar, the world's fourth largest island and still fabulously unfathomable — scientists found eight new species of gecko here last year.

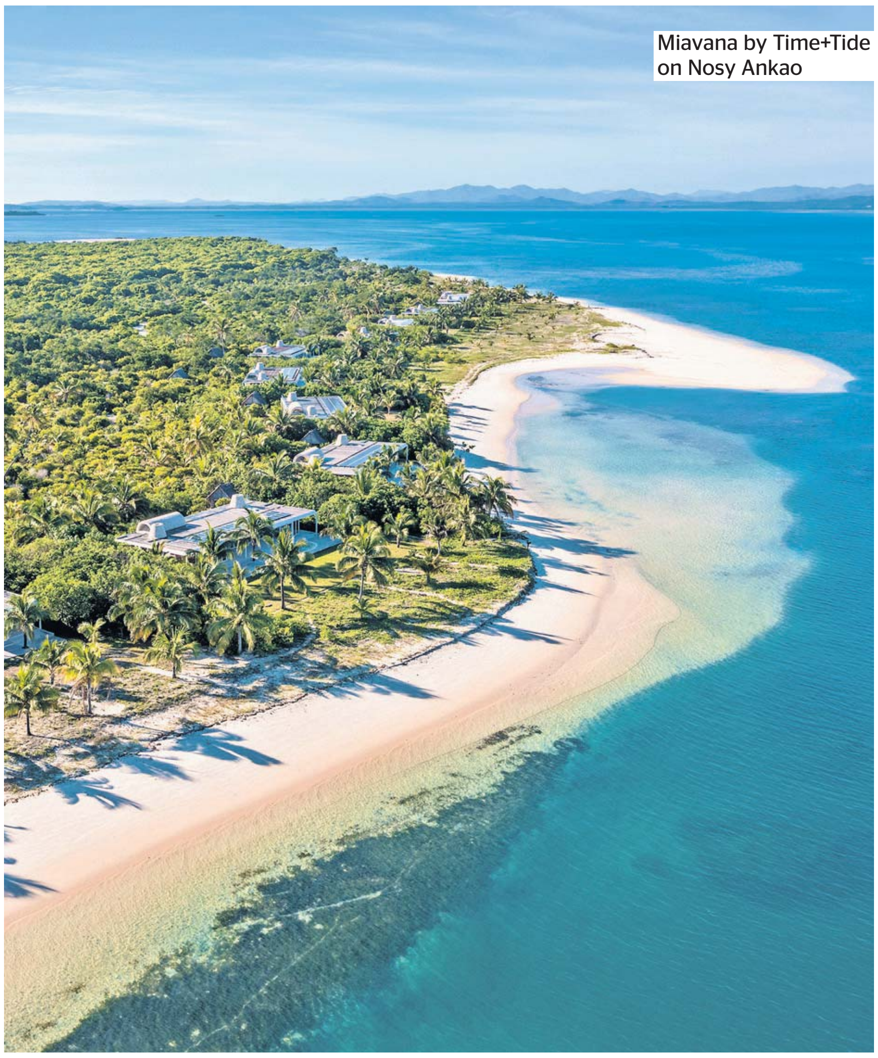
From an elevation of 1,400ft it certainly lives up to its nickname of the Great Red Island. I'm wowed by mountains where rust-coloured iron oxide drips like blood down slopes dramatically scored by acid rain. Yet a few turns of the rotor blades later they morph into dewily romantic ranges blanketed in rainforest, or emerald-green mangroves streaked with the silver veins of rivulets, patchworks of rice paddies and the occasional thatched-roofed village with no visible road leading to it. Ever present is a mesmerising coastline fringed with beaches as soft as swirls of cappuccino foam.

It's intoxicating, but the wildlife tops even this topography. Madagascar was cut off from the rest of Africa more than 80 million years ago by a seismic shift that secured its unique status as a modern-day Noah's Ark. More than 90 per cent of Malagasy plants, reptiles and mammals are naturally found nowhere else on the planet — including, of course, its Betty Boop-cute lemurs. Thankfully, some things are missing, namely any animals that might kill you. Nosy Ankao doesn't even have the anopheles mosquito, the little ankle biter that carries malaria.

Nick takes our helicopter low for a better view of a sea turtle coming up for air. Madagascar has critically endangered hawksbills as well as green and olive ridley turtles. If I'd visited in March or April I would have seen baby ninjas hatch, flip, flop, waddle and wade their way into the deep blue beyond the sands outside my villa. And if I'd waited until July I'd have dovetailed with the start of the four-



ANDREW MACDONALD



Miavana by Time+Tide on Nosy Ankao



The villas have private pools

month window during which guests can dive with humpback whales who have swapped the Antarctic winter for bays that are as tepid as the airline tea.

But it's May, so I have to content myself with general tropical gorgeousness and the promise of *Top Gun*-inspired excursions to explore the mainland up close. First, though, I hit pause to appreciate the pure escapism on terra firma. You may wonder what attracted the South African-born entrepreneur Thierry Dalais to this Crusoe-perfect archipelago, and in particular Miavana's show-stopping 2,500-acre bundle of coconut palms, wrapped up in a 1½-mile ribbon of pearly sand with sun-lounger views of the misty Amber Mountain across an azure sea. The answer is seaweed. Obviously.

Dalais arrived in 2009 to invest in an algae farm, algae being an ingredient in everything from dog food and chocolate to toothpaste and eye cream. Four years later he decided to replace the farm with a luxury resort. Dismiss all thoughts of Eddie Grundy's attempts to diversify from agriculture in *The Archers*. Dalais had impeccable credentials, having created one of the world's most exclusive resorts in 2003: rustic-chic North Island in the Seychelles, where Prince William and Kate honeymooned.

Miavana opened in 2017 at a rumoured cost of £32 million and, as at North Island, which Dalais sold in 2010, conservation and the local community is central to operations. So 10,000 casuarina trees were replaced with native species including palms, fig trees and wild vanilla. Meanwhile the Time+Tide Foundation, which has an emphasis on female empowerment, supports the island's Ampasamigidy village, including funding the school and meeting villagers' healthcare costs as well as providing employment in the resort.

Dalais commissioned North Island's renowned architect and design duo Silvio Rech and Lesley Carstens, though for Miavana he cranked up the contemporary volume so the Malagasy aesthetic is boldly modern, with Mies van der Rohe undertones. All 14 open-plan villas are so vast that even my one-bedroom hideaway would warrant its own postcode in London. They are identically decorated with an uplifting palette of turquoise and white (right down to the Smeg toaster and kettle), with hand-cut honey-coloured stone and bamboo for texture, and spectacular bathrooms with alfresco turreted showers. Chill-out indoor/outdoor spaces are furnished with sink-in sofas, loungers and deckchairs, and there are board games and coloured pencils for old-fashioned fun, while runway lengths of window showcase wide decks with private pools that lead to an unbeatable bone-white beach.

It's probably a good idea at this point to mention the elephant in the room: the price. Actually, it's more a herd than a single Nelly, given that it costs a minimum of £3,700 per person per day, with heli outings charged at £2,013 an hour. That is an outrageous sum, but it does ensure nonstop excellence. I can order anything from delicious rock-lobster omelette to moreish Malagasy feasts of chicken curry and bean stew whenever I want from the "anywhere, any time menu".

The team is charming and efficient, though I disappoint my Indonesian butler Surya by preferring to unpack for myself and failing to issue any first-world demands. Many of the staff, including the knowledgeable and good-humoured guiding team led by Johnson and Hardy, are from Madagascar. They scout out some of the twenty or so elusive crowned lemurs — introduced to Miavana's forests from an area of high poaching on the mainland — for easy wildlife viewing, and just as smoothly converse about history. In the resort's mini museum I spot medieval-looking suits of armour, which Johnson tells me were worn by soldiers in the late 1940s during the uprising against French colonial rule. Independence was finally achieved in 1960.

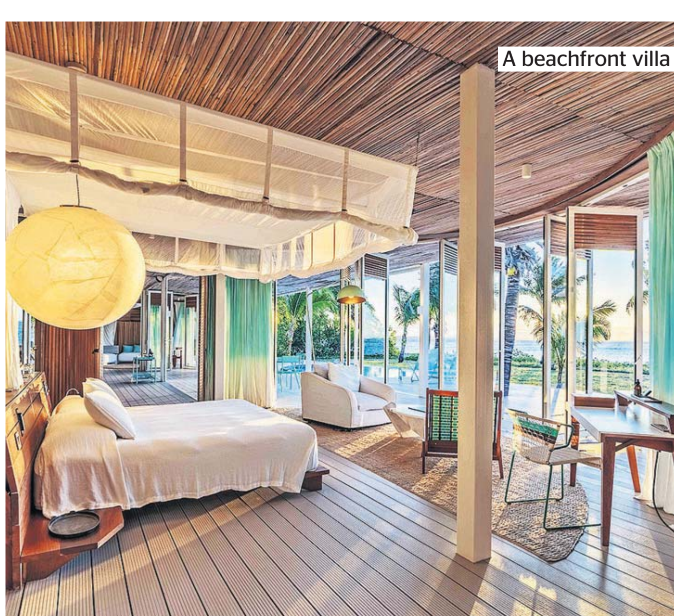
The heli tours provide some stark realities. I pass over huge tracts of land deforested by logging and agricultural practices, but there's plenty of catnip too. My highlight is Miavana's "secret" alternative to the country's famous Avenue of the Baobabs. Africa's sacred tree soars to 30m and lives for thousands of years; six of its nine species are endemic to Madagascar. By chance, the pilots came across this stand of more than 40 baobabs close to Ankarana National Park, where the trees' eerily twisted branches rise imperious above the forest canopy — even the locals didn't know about them. Nick goes full-on Cruise, expertly ducking and diving between them. It's a beyond-bucket-list moment.

Back at base, adrenalin accoutrements include jet skis and kite surfing. The island's Turtle Bay has cult status among international kite surfers, who rave about Miavana's reliable 20-40-knot northwesterlies from April to November; the rest of us call it plain windy. More reflective pursuits include paddleboarding, kayaking, snorkelling on a colourful, fish-rich house reef and heavenly massages with Ami.

And while internet is patchy and you must set your watch to island time when ordering food since it can sometimes take a while to appear, overall Miavana is a near-faultless tropical fantasy, so much so that on my flight home I spot *Top Gun: Maverick* among the inflight movies and wonder if I haven't been a little harsh on Tom. Turns out I haven't: it's a full-on cheesefest. I don't last ten minutes. Think I'll stick to his holiday pap snaps instead.

Need to know

Susan d'Arcy was a guest of Scott Dunn, which has seven nights' full board at Miavana by Time+Tide from £26,410pp, including flights and private helicopter transfers (scottdunn.com)



A beachfront villa

5 more African island resorts

Thanda Island, Tanzania
This 20-acre dot off Mafia Island makes a splash, given that you have at your disposal two boats, a captain and crew, plus the Shungi Mbili Island Marine Reserve's dugongs, dolphins, whale sharks and green turtles. There's just one villa, which sleeps ten in bedrooms that open onto the beach. There's a fine wine collection and a wraparound dining area with 180-degree views.
Details Five nights' full board from £29,166pp, based on six people, including flights, helicopter transfers, activities and spa treatments (abercrombiekent.co.uk)

Kisawa Sanctuary, Mozambique
On Benguerra Island, the Kisawa resort has 11 bungalows, each set in one acre of private garden and surrounded by the resort's 750-acre reserve of dunes, acacia forests, pristine coast and coral reefs. The interiors have been furnished by local artisans, and each bungalow has a pool and an outdoor kitchen where a dedicated chef and butler do the gourmet business.
Details Seven nights' all-inclusive from £19,100pp, including flights and helicopter transfers (elegantresorts.co.uk)

&Beyond Mnemba Island, Zanzibar
A 15-minute speedboat ride from Zanzibar's northeast coast lies this tiny hideaway, with 11 rustic cottages housing traditional carved wooden beds and private beach salas, close to some of east Africa's best dive sites. On land, the resort has its own herd of antelope, rare coconut crabs and colourful birdlife. Days are punctuated by castaway beach picnics and waterside candlelit dinners.
Details Five nights' all-inclusive from £7,739pp, including transfers (redsavannah.com). Fly to Nairobi

Coco Komba Lodge, Madagascar
Nosy Komba is a mountainous dot off the northwest coast of Madagascar and home to this laid-back resort with five simple villas in prime position to take in the rocky peaks as well as the pristine beach. Divide days between hiking up the island's volcano, snorkelling and diving in the nearby marine park, and beach time. The lodge's restaurant serves traditional dishes and local fish with a side order of fabulous sunset views.
Details Three nights' full board from £266pp (coco-komba.com). Fly to Nosy Be

Anantara Bazaruto Island Resort & Spa, Mozambique
Bazaruto is a 30-minute boat ride from the mainland and these 44 sleek beachfront bungalows sit within a marine national park, so enjoy snorkelling, diving and swimming with dolphins, turtles and manta rays. There's also a hilltop spa and dune boarding; dinner can be Mozambican curries or Mediterranean pizzas.
Details Six days' all-inclusive from £3,680pp, including flights and transfers (expertafrica.com)

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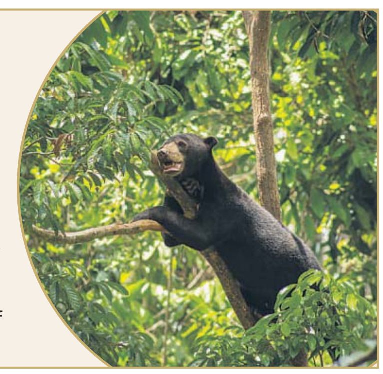
Your Incredible Voyage Highlights

HALF DAY TOUR OF KOTA KINABALU
During your half day tour, head to Phu Tho Se Chinese Temple, the Sabah State Mosque (one of the most outstanding pieces of architecture in Sabah) and the Sabah Museum, home to fine exhibits that chronicle Sabah's fascinating historical past and rich cultural heritage.

SEPILOK ORANGUTAN SANCTUARY
You will have the incredible opportunity to visit the renowned Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary, a rehabilitation centre that strives to reintroduce captive orangutans back into the wild. Here, you'll be able to observe orangutans at their feeding stations in the rainforest and, if the nursery is open, witness baby orangutans playing.

BORNEAN SUN BEAR CONSERVATION CENTRE
The centre rescues captured sun bears and is involved in the conversation, welfare rehabilitation and education of sun bears. You'll get the special opportunity to see the incredible work that the centre puts into the welfare of the species.

MANGROVE FORESTS
Embark on a boat cruise up the Lower Kinabatangan River, passing pristine mangrove forests that are a haven for all manner of strange and beautiful creatures. Look out for Proboscis Monkeys with their unusually long noses that can only be found in Borneo, and keep your eyes peeled for an array of colourful species of bird.



25 NIGHTS DEPARTING 3RD & 27TH JANUARY 2025

Day 1 **Fly overnight from London to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia>**

Day 2 **Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia**
Upon arrival, transfer to a hotel to begin your seven night 'Borneo Land Tour Experience' with Wendy Wu Tours×

Day 3 **Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia**
★Kinabalu National Park★
Transfer to the Poring Hot Springs, stopping en-route at Nabalu village. Upon arrival, observe the wildlife on the canopy walkway and take a dip in one of the hot mineral springs. Continue to Kinabalu National Park to explore the beautiful mountain gardens. Visit a local restaurant to enjoy a traditional Malay dinner (B, L, D)



Day 4 **Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia** ★Half Day Tour★ (B, L)

Day 5 **Kota Kinabalu – Sandakan – Sepilok – Abai, Malaysia**
★Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary★
Transfer to the airport to board your flight to Sandakan. Upon arrival, transfer to the Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary. Later, enjoy a river cruise, followed by a guided night walk (B, L, D)

Day 6 **Abai – Sukau, Malaysia**
Take a boat trip for bird watching at Pitas Lake. After lunch, check in to Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge‡ and embark on a cruise up the Kinabatangan River (B, L, D)

Day 7 **Sukau, Malaysia**
Cruise along the Menanggul River. After lunch, visit the Gomantong Cave. Surrounded by primary rainforest and rich in fruiting wild figs, this is an ideal place to spot orangutans in the wild (B, L, D)

Day 8 **Sukau – Sandakan – Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia**
After breakfast, transfer to Sandakan by boat and enjoy lunch before transferring to the airport for your flight to Kota Kinabalu. Upon arrival, transfer to a hotel for your overnight stay (B, L)

Day 9 **Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia – Singapore**
After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Singapore. Upon arrival, transfer to a 4★ hotel‡ for your two night stay, including breakfast (B)

Day 10 **Singapore**
Spend today exploring at your leisure (B)

Day 11 **Singapore**
After breakfast, transfer to the port and embark the luxury *Celebrity Solstice®* for your 12 night all-inclusive voyage (B)

Day 13 **Ko Samui, Thailand**

Day 14 - Day 15 **Bangkok (from Laem Chabang), Thailand** (overnight)

Day 17 **Ho Chi Minh City (from Phu My), Vietnam**

Day 18 **Nha Trang, Vietnam**

Day 19 **Hue/Da Nang (from Chan May), Vietnam** (arrive late am)

Day 20 - Day 21 **Hanoi (from Halong Bay), Vietnam** (arrive early pm – overnight)

Day 23 **Hong Kong, China**
Disembark and transfer to a 4★ hotel‡ for your two night stay, including breakfast

Day 24 **Hong Kong, China**
Spend today exploring at your leisure (B)

Day 25 **Hong Kong, China**
Transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to London> (B)

Day 26 **Arrive in London**

Days not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea. Itinerary is based on 3rd January 2025 departure date and ports of call may vary on other date. Please note, meals are included on the tour as stated: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner. All meals are included on the cruise element.

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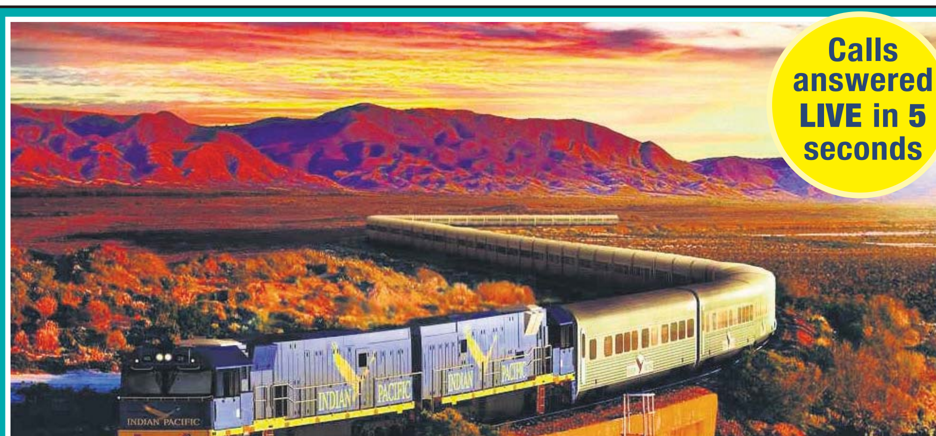
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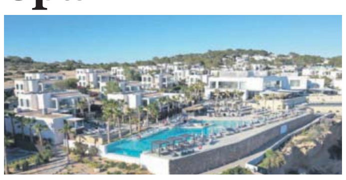
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Save 40% at the 5* 7Pines Resort, Ibiza

Nestled in a pine grove on the cliffs of the west coast of Ibiza between Cala Conta and Cala Codolar, with unobstructed views of the Mediterranean Sea and the magical rocky island of Es Vedrà, this is a truly unique location.

5 nights fr £719pp Inc flights

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Save 25% on HB at the 5* Atlantis, The Palm

The only resort in Dubai that is a destination in itself. Feel the rush in the world's largest waterpark - Aquaventure. Discover The Lost Chambers Aquarium & meet the incredible marine mammals at Dolphin Bay and Sea Lion Point.

5 nights fr £1,609pp Inc flights

Thailand

Save 20% at the 5* Zeavola Resort

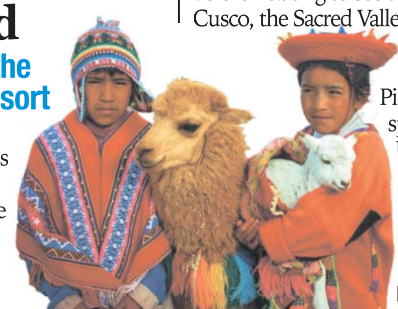
The upscale beach resort of Zeavola lies within the Koh Phi Phi National Marine Park and features opulent villas with gardens and swimming pools and direct beach access. There are two restaurants, including a seafront Italian option, and a spa with sauna, steam & massage treatments.

6 nights fr £1,285pp Inc flights

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The exclusive 5* Casa de Campo Resort & Villas boasts an array of amenities including 3 championship golf courses, an expansive Marina, tennis courts and even polo facilities - boredom doesn't exist here.

7 nights fr £1,765pp Inc flights

St Lucia

Save 50% AI

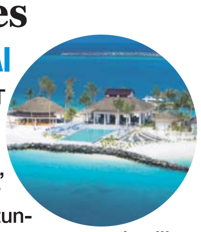


Set on a gorgeous white-sand beach in Labrelotte Bay, on the northwest coast, the 4* Windjammer Landing Villa Beach Resort is an elegant resort offering friendly service and a taste of luxury.

7 nights fr £2,395pp Inc flights

Maldives

Save 15% AI



5* OBLU SELECT Lobigili is a contemporary all inclusive resort, exclusively for adults! Enjoy stunning views from your romantic villa, and a culinary extravaganza at Blu Underwater Restaurant.

7 nights fr £2,849pp Inc flights

Mauritius

Save 20%



Recline along the white sandy beach of the legendary Le Morne Peninsula with a stay at the 5* JW Marriott Mauritius Resort. A truly immersive experience with a luxurious Spa by JW.

7 nights fr £1,795pp Inc flights

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Save £470



The only resort on Silhouette Island, 5* Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa offers its guests a true tropical island escape. Enjoy a hike through lush rainforest, or simply relax on the soft white sand beach.

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Mexico

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The 5* Secrets Tulum Resort & Beach Club offers a picturesque, romantic adults-only retreat nestled in a lush green mangrove, along Tulum's powder white-sand beaches and sparkling turquoise sea.

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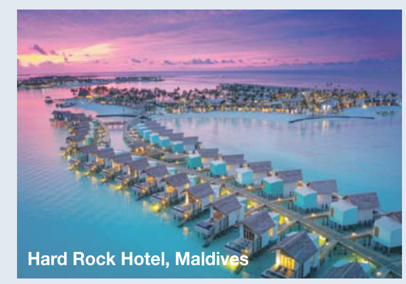
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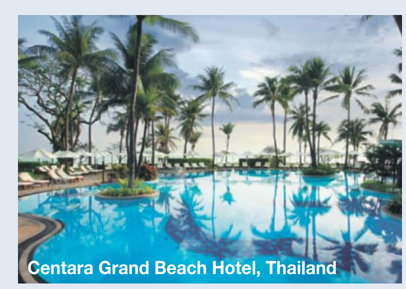
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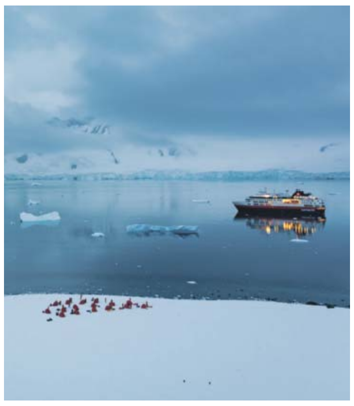
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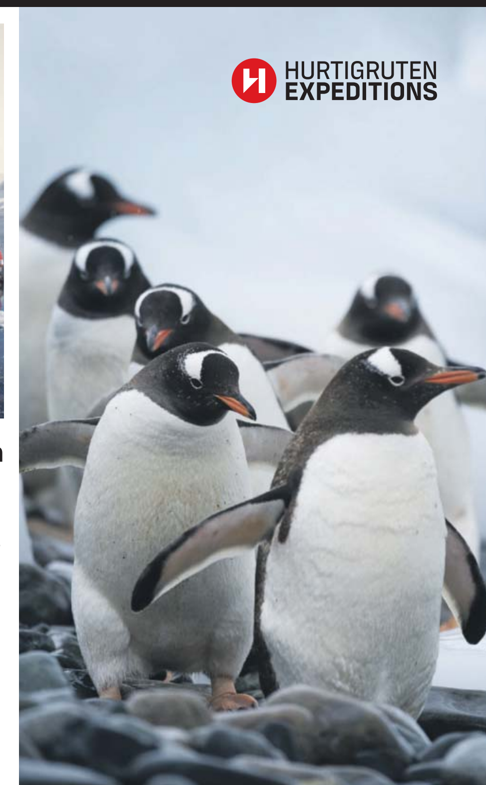
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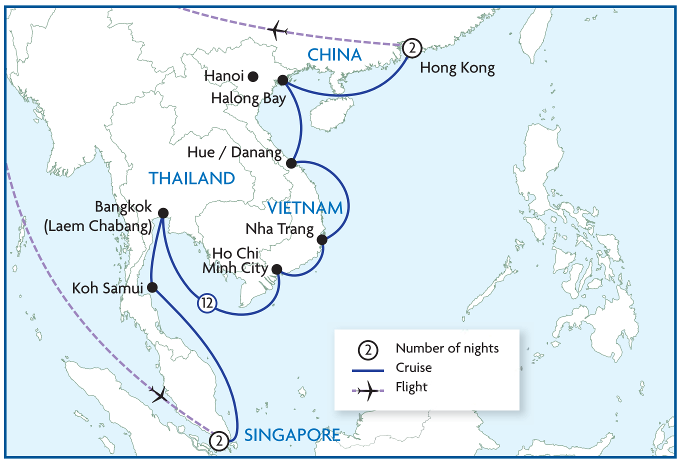
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The Donnersmarkt bar



A Park suite



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Vienna's chic new palace hotel

Palatial grandeur has been replaced by contemporary cool at a splendid Viennese bolt hole. By Francesca Kellett

If modern Vienna is all about celebrating the old while embracing the new, then the just-opened Almanac Palais Vienna is bang on trend. Set on the famous Parkring at numbers 14 and 16, it is housed in two knocked-together palaces from 1873, with an arched entrance wide enough for the carriages that used to pass through them. So far, so grand Viennese hotel. Inside, though, it's all change. Muted colours and "plant-forward" food replace glittering chandeliers, heavy swag and gold leaf.

Tina Haselbacher, 34, the Viennese-born owner, tells me that the plan was to breathe new life into these historical buildings. Number 14 was built by the industrialist Hugo Henckel von Donnersmarck for his second wife, Countess Laura Kaszongi, while number 16 was cotton magnate Friedrich Franz Josef Leitenberger's Vienna home; they were, until recently, a Radisson Blu hotel.

We meet in Donnersmarkt, the high-ceilinged ground-floor restaurant, which is so new you can almost smell the paint drying. The venue is a triumph — bright, airy, with one wall covered with a sensational frieze of abstract leaves and flowers, created by the Spanish artists Alejandro Jaler and Nicolas Lucas to reflect the Stadtpark opposite. There's a huge zig-zag-shaped shared table, enormous circular lights and universally delightful staff.

The food, too, is firmly on the "new" side: heritage carrots roasted in honey, miso-roasted aubergine with coconut and chilli, grilled asparagus with minted peas. They're only serving dinner for now but are planning a lunch menu, as well as a new seating area on the pavement outside — very Viennese.

I'm less taken with the lobby, set in a glassed-in courtyard, perhaps because the walls are covered in vast abstract panels, created by the same artists, which give the impression that they're hiding something. Still, you don't go to a hotel to hang out in the lobby, so let's take a look at the rooms. There are 111 in total, 80 of which are suites, varying in size and scope. Some are duplexes, others have high ceilings — so high, in fact, that sleeping in them might be a little disorientating. Better are the cosier suites on the top floors, where the low ceilings are covered with space-exaggerating aged mirrors and the windows look out over gleaming rooftops.

The restaurant aside, this isn't a hotel for those that love colour. The look is pared-back chic: muted taupe and chocolate offset by brushed gold, with carved wooden panels behind the beds and smart parquet floors.

Blinds, lights and air conditioning are all controlled by slightly irritating panels, but they use the latest technology to sense if there is someone in the room as well as to measure everything from temperature to energy usage. If the room is empty, everything turns off and the blinds close to conserve energy. Being "of the next generation", sustainability is important to Haselbacher and the brand, which launched with a hotel in Barcelona in 2017, followed by another in Prague a few months ago.

Back to the green stuff. There's no single-use plastic here and Almanac is "looking into" going zero-waste. Supporting local businesses is key — the Barcelona property worked with artists from the area and although there was no art in the rooms here when I stayed, partnering with Viennese artists is, says Haselbacher, high on her to-do list. Seasonal ingredients are bought from local producers, bathrooms are Austrian marble and the minibar is stocked with Austrian drinks.

The attached Elias Café, a cool, white-tiled space with the same soaring ceilings, is run by (and named after) Haselbacher's partner, a barista and "coffee obsessive" who tried every bean on the market before settling on the Viennese roasters, CaffèCouture.

The spa, too, will make use of local beauty brands when it's ready. Massages and facials take place in the guest rooms for now, and my restorative massage is just that. The gorgeous subterranean pool, large at 14 metres, is ready, with an attached whirlpool plus sauna, steam room, two treatment rooms and a gym.



The hotel does have an old side. On the first floor, a series of gorgeous heritage salons which are under national protection are painstakingly being restored. Every inch of the silk wall hanging needs to be cleaned, every flake of gold leaf reapplied, the curtains repaired and rehung, and the frescoes cleaned. When it's finished, these spaces will be open for events, conferences and, Haselbacher hopes, salons where "artists, intellectuals and writers" will meet in the old Viennese tradition. For now, though, the Almanac is a place for those who prefer contemporary cool to grand old gilt. For a taste of imperial Austria, opt instead for the swag of Vienna's old dames.

Need to know

Francisca Kellett was a guest of Almanac Palais Vienna which has B&B doubles from £415 (almanachotels.com). Fly or take the train to Vienna

VIENNA GUIDE

As well as the city's classic sites, the pace of change is going strong, with greener buildings springing up and the food scene being given a healthy, veggie-focused shot in the arm. So if you think there's only the laced-up, white-gloved, formal side of Vienna, think again. Now's a good time to revisit a city that is still, somehow, cleverer than the rest.

What to do

1873 Vienna World's Fair anniversary events

Much of what Vienna is famous for today wasn't known to outsiders until the 1873 Vienna World's Fair, celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. Emperor Franz Joseph tore down the old city walls to make way for the magnificent Ringstrasse, and the fair became the largest ever held, showing off 35 countries and the world's latest inventions — pencils, champagne, dynamite, fake teeth. About 7.5 million visitors came, a fraction of the 20 million expected thanks to a stock market crash, weeks of rain and a cholera outbreak. Still, it allowed Vienna to show off its new face to a new breed of tourist. Museums across the city are hosting related events all year (wien.info).

Leopold Museum

This is the city where composers from Mozart to Strauss transformed music, where Klimt and Schiele reinvented art, where Schrödinger and Wittgenstein picked over the very fabric of human existence and Sigmund Freud pieced it all back together again. At the *Vienna 1900* exhibition at the Leopold Museum, you're bombarded with examples of why this city is somehow cleverer, busier, better than others. The museum is also known for its Austrian art, including Egon Schiele's tortured self-portraits. The *Amazing* exhibition, until September 10, showcases the best of the Würth ▶

▶ Collection, with work by Max Liebermann, Edvard Munch and Alfred Sisley (£13; leopoldmuseum.org).

Ringstrasse tram to the museums
The Ringstrasse runs around the historical core, with a handy tram system that zips you past many of the major sites including the Kunsthistorisches Museum (£18; khm.at), the Opera House and Maria-Theresien-Platz. Hop off at the Hofburg, seat of the ruling Habsburgs for 600 years, and stroll around the bucolic Burggarten, where locals while away sunny afternoons with a glass of wine and a book. Here you'll also find the Albertina (£16.40; albertina.at), with room after room of important prints and drawings by everyone from Rembrandt to Miró, via Dürer's famous *Young Hare*. The Picasso exhibition (until June 18; free with entry), is worth a detour en route to the State Rooms.

Belvedere Museum
The pick of the museums is the Belvedere, split into the Upper and Lower, with immaculate gardens laid out between. The Upper is home to Klimt's most famous works, including *The Kiss*. The Lower has exhibitions, such as the current *Klimt. Inspired by Van Gogh, Rodin, Matisse…* (£21; belvedere.at).

Walking tours of Prater
For brilliant walking tours, contact Ilse Heigerth, who offers World Fair-themed tours around Prater, once the private hunting ground of the Habsburgs (three hours £169pp; redumbrella.vienna@gmail.com). Today, it is better known for its amusement park (free entry; praterwien.com), home to the world's oldest big wheel, and it's a lovely place for an early summer stroll and picnic.


Apple strudel

Where to eat and drink

Café Landtmann
For wafer-thin wienerschitzel, head to Freud's favourite, which serves hearty Austrian dishes including tafelspitz (boiled beef), strudel and sugar-dusted Kaiserschmarrn (soup and main course £13; landtmann.at).

Demel
A few minutes' walk from the Hofburg, Demel is famous for its classic Viennese cakes served in gilded salons (from £6; demel.com).

Glacis Beisl
If you're in the MuseumsQuartier, stop off at Glacis Beisl, set in a corner of Vienna's old city walls. The vine-covered terrace is a gorgeous lunch spot, serving traditional goulash and dumplings or grilled trout. It has a good local wine list, too (mains from £9.10; glacisbeisl.at).

MANFRED GOTTSCHALK, ANZELETTI/GETTYIMAGES


Part of the Hofburg palace complex

C.O.P.
For a taste of new Vienna head to hot and happening C.O.P. on Biberstrasse, a farm-to-table restaurant with delicious dishes like grilled asparagus with tomato salsa and baked seabass with aioli (mains from £12; copvienna.at).

MQ Libelle
For drinks, take the lift up to the MQ Libelle viewing terrace on the Leopold Museum. It's part art installation, part cocktail bar, with views over the turreted sprawl of imperial Vienna. Order a glass of local grüner veltliner or sparkling Schlumberger; there are more than 190 winemakers within the city limits alone (wine by the glass from £3; mqw.at).

Where to stay

Hotel Imperial
Celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, the Imperial has hosted everyone from Charlie Chaplin and Alfred Hitchcock to the Rolling Stones, but it's also a good choice for those who like things traditional. Think marble-clad lobby, sparkling chandeliers, brocade curtains, silk wallpaper and formal service. Café Imperial is a popular choice for lunch or afternoon coffee and cake, while the restaurant OPUS offers Michelin-starred dining (five-course tasting menus from £122).
Details Room-only doubles from £363 (marriott.co.uk)

Palais Hansen Kempinski
Another of the city's first hotels celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, the Kempinski offers a top-hatted welcome and white-gloved service with a smile. There are two restaurants, including the Michelin-starred EDVARD, and the Lobby Lounge, serving a good apfelstrudel. The rooms have been updated with contemporary art and fabrics, but there's still plenty of marble and chandeliers about.
Details Room-only doubles from £365 (kempinski.com)

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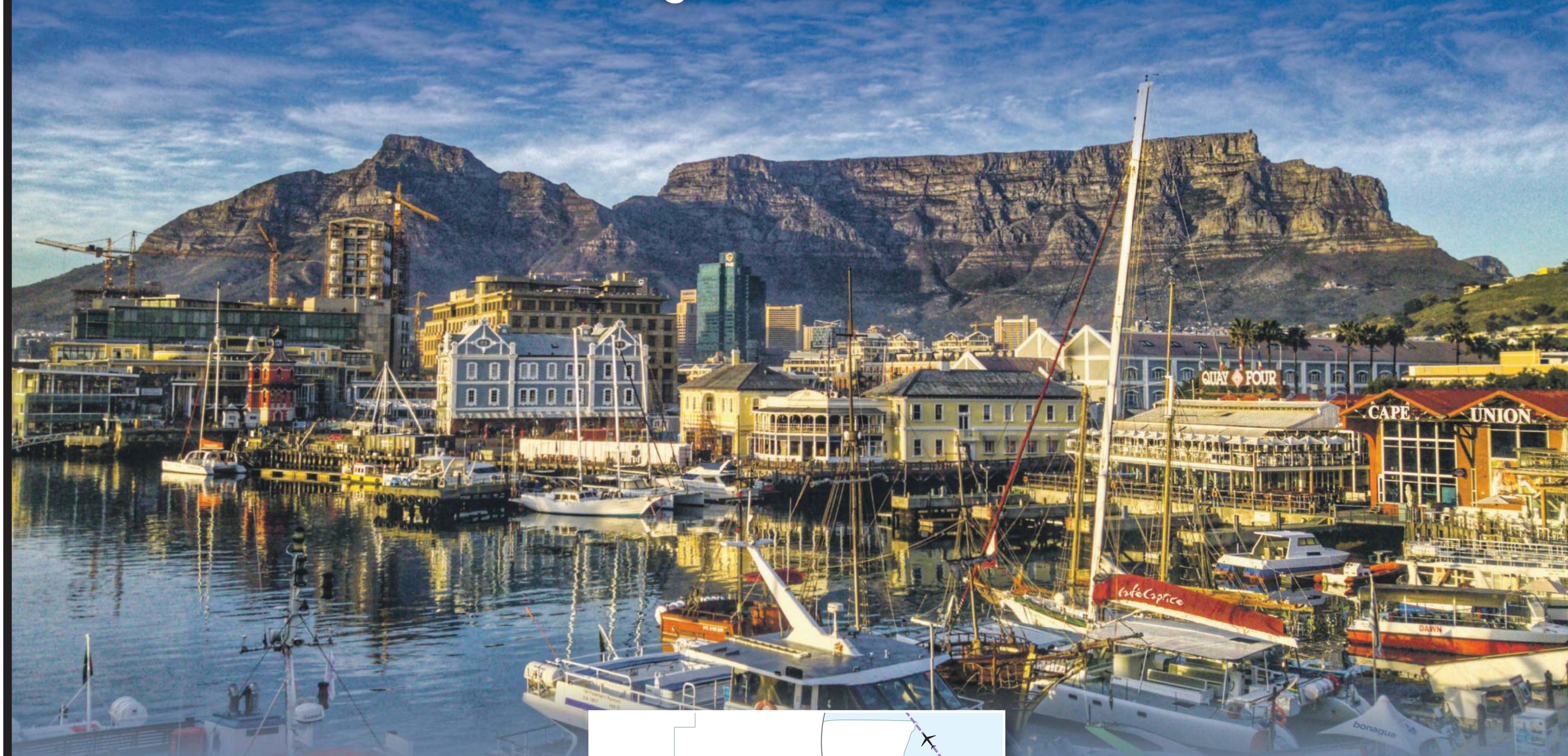
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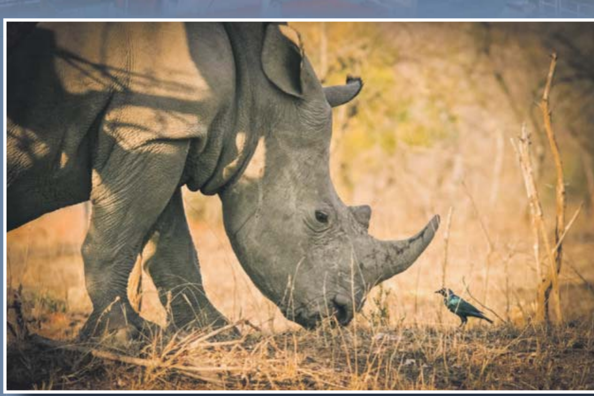
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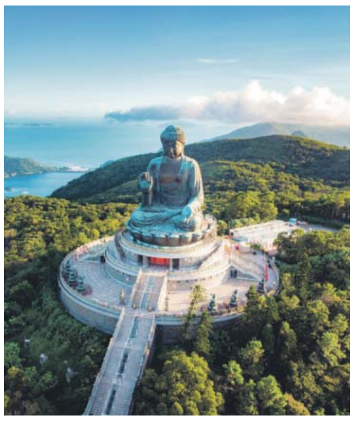
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*Prices listed are based on two sharing a twin/double room. Single supplement on request. Flights on holidays booked more than 11 months in advance may be subject to supplements when airline fares are published. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Wendy Wu, ABTA W7994 ATOL 6639, a company wholly independent of News UK. ^Book by June 30 2023. Offer is available on selected 2023 departures.

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Travel checklist

Whether you'd like to escape to the other side of the world, or venture somewhere closer to home, these travel ideas and tips are sure to fire up the imagination

Read more online! Visit *checklists.co.uk* and follow @checklistsocial

Dine at the historic Trafalgar Tavern in Greenwich

The Trafalgar Tavern, a quintessential British riverside tavern, rises gracefully from the river at Greenwich. Opened in 1837, it retains the essence of 19th century maritime Greenwich, and was frequented by the luminaries of London's literary, artistic and political circles.

Today, it continues to epitomise late Regency taste and presents a unique glimpse of authentic seaside architecture in London. It serves traditional British fare, including beer-battered fish and chips and delicious Sunday roasts; and is famous for its celebrated whitebait. It also features an extensive list of beers, wines, and spirits that suit every taste. The magnificent banqueting rooms host private events for any occasion. The Trafalgar Tavern continues to fly the flag for the British pub sector.



Visit *trafalgartavern.co.uk* to book now or call 020 3887 9886.

Alderney – an island adventure close to home

Just a stone's throw from the south coast of England lies the beautiful island of Alderney. With no crowds, no queues and no traffic jams, Alderney is often described as the 'hidden gem of the Channel Islands' and offers the safe, warm and relaxing escape you have been dreaming of.

On this small island, you are never far from the scenic coastline. You can walk the stunning cliff paths, enjoy the quiet, uncrowded sandy beaches or tuck into the local produce.





Go birdwatching or discover Alderney's fascinating heritage. Be entertained by a wide variety of events or simply enjoy a night of stargazing under the truly dark skies.

There is no other place in the world quite like Alderney. It's a friendly island with an easy pace of life, where children can still roam free.

An Alderney adventure awaits you, go to *visitalderney.com* to find out more.

The luggage experts since 1969

Go Places is the longest established travel goods online retailer in the UK, they have been selling luggage since 1969. The team pride themselves on providing high-quality support and advice to customers, which can be seen from their 4.9 rating on TrustPilot.

The range consists of major brands including Samsonite, Ted Baker, Dune London and Brics at discounted prices. You can even shop the collection based on the duration of your trip and you will find a perfectly curated selection of luggage options, whether you are going for two days, 10 days, two weeks, or more! And if you're looking for the perfect staycation pieces and don't fancy bringing a bulky suitcase, they have a range of duffle bags, backpacks and holdalls to fit everything you need.



If you would like help picking the perfect product, call their friendly team on 01403 713332 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5.30pm). Shop the range at *goplaces.co.uk*

Luxurious accommodation in the Peak District

Ideally located for Chatsworth and the Derbyshire Dales, magnificent Darley House is the perfect place to celebrate, or simply relax with family and friends. This spacious Georgian home has six stylish bedrooms, four elegant reception rooms, a truly stunning kitchen and dining area, and fabulous garden – which all combine for a magical self-catering stay.

One delighted guest commented: *"Wow - what a beautiful, amazing house"*



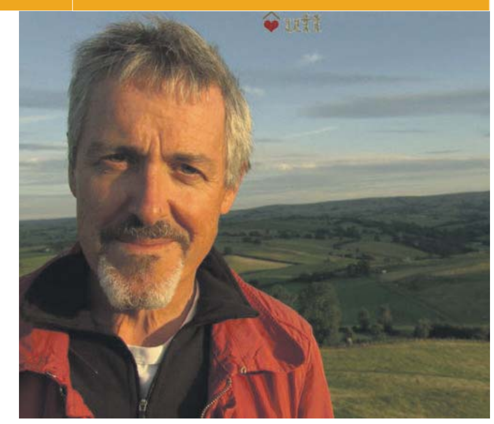
Accredited by Quality in Tourism. Book now at *darleyhouse.com* or call Lucy on 07719 894663.

Win a stay at Griff Rhys Jones' Pembrokeshire Cottage *Worth up to £707!*

Enter here checklists.co.uk/win/underthethatch

After 19 years of restoration, presenter and conservationist Griff Rhys Jones has completed his Welsh estate on the Pembrokeshire coast.

The former presenter of BBC Restoration is known for his meticulous renovation projects in Suffolk, London and elsewhere, but it's his project by Strumble Head lighthouse that has become a showpiece for his impeccable standards in design, sustainability and conservation.





Griff says: *"We were essentially dealing with wrecks, and we had to pour cash into the restoration to get it right, but the farm still amazes me as it did on the first day."*

If the entire estate is booked, then up to 31 can be accommodated in comfort, sharing access to around 100 acres including nature walks, a children's play area and ponds newly stocked for fishing.

Visit *underthethatch.com* to find out more or scan the QR code to enter the competition.

Tasty sugar-free sweets



At Ricola, they attach great importance to combining natural Swiss herbs and superior taste. That is why they produce tasty, sugar-free sweets in a variety of different flavours. All of their sweets are vegan friendly, lactose, gluten and palm oil free and contain their beneficial 13-Swiss herb blend. So, whether you're in the car, on the train, in the office or taking a walk, sometimes it feels good to just take a moment and give yourself a little boost to set your mouth and mind on a more positive path.

Get yourself some tasty, sugar-free treats directly from Holland & Barrett, Sainsbury's, Waitrose or their online shop at *shop.ricola.com* or find out more about Ricola at *ricola.com*

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Fall in love with this new Grand Show in Berlin

The new Grand Show FALLING | IN LOVE at Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin promises ravishing beauty and an explosion of colour – curated by Parisian star designer Jean Paul Gaultier. Berlin's most radiant show jewel, with the magic of Swarovski. From 21 September!



The new production is all about You. You is young, passionate and full of yearning. Yet he does not fulfil any predefined notions and finds no love in the emotionless faces that surround him. When he is once again rejected, You wants nothing more than for the ground to swallow him up. Then the grey asphalt of civilisation crumbles beneath his feet. And You plunges into another reality. There, in the hidden garden of love, he sees what he has never seen before. A surging sea of colour and beauty in all facets of nature. He experiences the eternal human dream of a better world. Trapped within time-honoured norms.

Will a young deaf poet ultimately find the words to break free of these human-made boundaries and allow love to blossom?

FALLING | IN LOVE is a blossoming fantasy. As dreamlike as it could be true. The New York Times considers the shows at the Palast a 'must-see' on a visit to Berlin. More than 100 artists on the world's biggest theatre. Experience spectacular live entertainment! The show is also suitable for non-German speakers.

FRIEDRICHSTADT– PALAST BERLIN

Visit *palast.berlin/en/falling-in-love* to book and find out more about the show.

Hvar – the diamond in the Adriatic crown

HVAR TOURIST BOARD 155 YEARS OF ORGANISED TOURISM

Hvar, Croatia is spoiled with 3,000 hours of sunshine per year, and you can soak up all the rays on beaches where cliffs plunge into the turquoise blue waters.



It has idyllic traditional lifestyle, delicious food, a long history of winemaking, an extraordinary natural and historical heritage with six inscriptions on the UNESCO list.

Hospitality is part of the Hvar DNA, and this year celebrates 155 years of organised tourism.

The historic centre reveals monuments with Venetian charm including Loggia, the Arsenal building, St Stephen's Cathedral, and the largest square in Dalmatia spanning 4,500m2, which is always vibrant by the terraces of tres chic bars and restaurants. After enjoying the seafront at sunset, you can reach the historic theatre, the oldest public theatre in Europe, established in 1612. Discover the fingerprint story of Hvar born dactyloscopy grandfather, Ivan Vučetić. Culture is in full swing in Hvar town.



Hvar is nicknamed the 'lavender island' because of its fields of fragrant blooms. This peaks in mid-July when Velo Grablje holds a lavender festival.

If wine is more your thing, come for a late summer or early fall vacation as harvest plays out from August to October. One of the coolest things to do on the island is visit a winery that's only accessible by boat.

The Hvar magnetism and vibe is so strong, you won't be able to hold back. Once you try it, the essence of life will be discovered.

Go to *visithvar.hr* to find out more.
#FeelHvar #LoveHvar #VisitHvar

Stay in a 300-year-old farmstead

LIMEPARK

Limepark is nestled between the famous north coast with its world heritage site of the Giant's Causeway, Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge and beautiful glens of Antrim. Up to eight guests can choose to stay in the beautiful manor house with its luxurious four poster beds, relaxing library and living room, there are plenty of areas for guests to chill and chat in the Georgian B2 Listed house while soaking up the history.



Alternatively, you can choose from one of six unique and quaint cottages, that sleep from two to six people. Each cottage has been refurbished with luxury in mind, but is still sympathetic to each building's history, keeping and emphasising the original features. From the quirky Little Pigs' House to the larger Dark Horse House with its secret Narnia room which can only be accessed 'through the wardrobe', guests are spoilt for choice.



All accommodation shares the beautiful gardens, where guests can admire the 300-year-old Irish yew trees and wander down Bluebell Lane full of bees and pollinators making the most of this little wild area. The estate is sustainable, utilising solar power and wind energy while also featuring an eco-sewage system.

Limepark can cater for milestone events held in the restored tractor barn, and weddings, birthdays, and corporate event packages are available too.

Visit *limepark.com* and follow *@limepark.ni* *@limepark*

A hidden gem in the heart of Europe

LA COLOMBE BOUTIQUE HOTEL

In the dreamy old town of Zug, Switzerland, lies a (somewhat) hidden gem that boasts exquisite rooms: La Colombe Boutique Hotel. Opened last autumn, this little slice of paradise is still one of the best-kept secrets on Lake Zug. The historic building transports guests to a world of grandeur and sophistication as soon as they enter. Nine top-quality, simple and elegant rooms are available, some with balconies overlooking the lake.





In the hotel's own restaurant, fans of fine dining will find exactly what they are looking for. From spring to autumn, guests can enjoy Mediterranean cuisine with a creative twist on this unique location's idyllic lakeside terrace, with stunning views of the water.

Guests have access to a fitness studio with premium Technogym equipment and a spectacular view of Lake Zug, where both beginners and advanced athletes can get in their daily workout. For those who prefer to exercise in the great outdoors, guests can explore beautiful Lake Zug under their own steam with the hotel's own paddleboards. Other activities such as wakeboarding, boat trips and guided tours of the sights, art and cultural institutions in the historic old town can be booked through the hotel.



It's fair to say that a stay at the delightful hotel on Lake Zug and a visit to the charming little town of Zug won't disappoint. Whether for business or pleasure, guests will feel refreshed and revitalised, taking home memories to last a lifetime.

Visit *hotel-lacolombe.com/en* to find out more. Contact the team at *info@hotel-lacolombe.com*



An authentic luxury experience overlooking the Douro

Inspired by the wine culture; The Lodge is a luxury hotel with a unique design from prestigious designer Nini Andrade Silva that imprints the soul of the Douro in an organic way, awakening the senses in an aura of timelessness.

The hotel is inserted in the heart of the centuries-old port wine cellars, overlooking the Douro River, and located next to the centre of Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia with privileged views. From the rooms, designed in detail to convey an atmosphere of comfort and sophistication, to the heated outdoor pool and the different wine and gastronomic experiences; everything converges at The Lodge to create a true haven.

The intimate rooms and spaces for meetings and conferences also allow you to organise unique and unforgettable events.

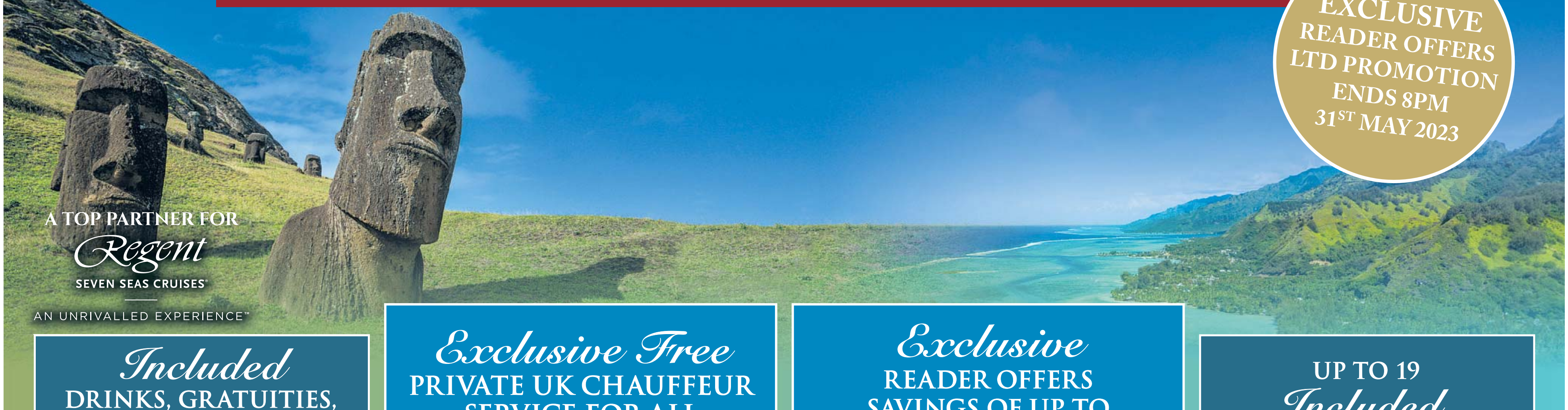
the Lodge HOTEL

Find out more at *thelodgehotel.pt*

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Sat 15 **Santiago, Chile**
Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel for an overnight stay. **Book a Concierge Suite or above & enjoy an upgraded hotel stay^**

Sun 16 **Santiago, Chile**
This morning, transfer to San Antonio port and embark the ultra-luxurious 6★ *Seven Seas Mariner®* for your 18 night all-inclusive voyage

Tue 18 **Robinson Crusoe Island, Chile**

Sun 23 **Hanga Roa (Easter Island), Chile** (overnight)
★ Recommended INCLUDED Excursion×: Easter Island Panorama
Travel by coach through Hanga Roa, Easter Island's only town with stores, power and running water. Visit the archaeological site at Tahai to view an unusually varied, very old set of stone moai statues, standing enigmatically on three ahu platforms. After, stop for photos at an unrestored moai site and visit a local market offering wood and shell handicrafts

Mon 24 **Hanga Roa (Easter Island), Chile**
★ Recommended INCLUDED Excursion×: Ancient Cultures of Easter Island
Enjoy a visit to an extinct village on the edge of a volcano crater where a mysterious birdman cult once flourished. Plus, travel to a coastal site where five stone-faced moais dating back to 690AD stand on a ceremonial platform at Ahu Tahai

MARCH 2025

Sun 2 **Fakarava, French Polynesia**

Mon 3 **Huahine, French Polynesia**

Tue 4 **Raiatea, French Polynesia**
★ Recommended INCLUDED Excursion×: Opoa & Taputapuatea
Delve deeply into the ancient origins of the Polynesian culture at a sacred national monument in the village of Opoa which makes a wonderful prelude to visiting Marae Taputapuatea, a holy communal site on the coast where Polynesians held religious and social ceremonies long before missionaries arrived

Wed 5 **Moorea, French Polynesia**
★ Recommended INCLUDED Excursion×: Moorea Island Tour
See pineapple fields, ancient stone temples, picturesque villages and romantic white beaches
Papeete (Tahiti), French Polynesia (arrive early evening - overnight)

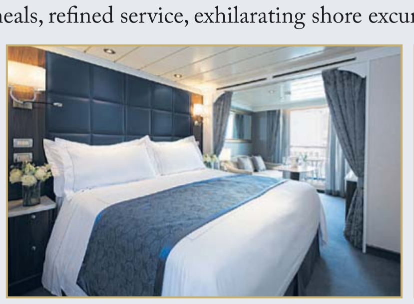
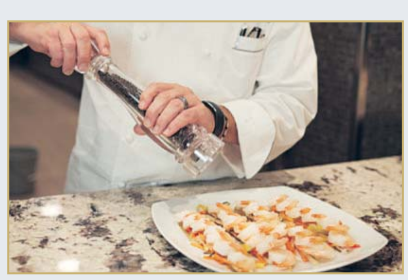
Thu 6 **Papeete (Tahiti), French Polynesia**
Disembark and transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to London>

Fri 7 **Arrive in London**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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If you like a little luxury on holiday then this **Los Angeles** and **New Zealand** twin centre is perfect. Stopover for 3 nights at the 5* **Mondrian Los Angeles**, a stylish hotel in the heart of **West Hollywood**. Then you're off to **New Zealand** for a fabulous 2 week tour. Travel in style on a state-of-the-art coach with a maximum of only 20 travellers and enjoy VIP extras.

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THE PEACHIEST SPOTS IN GEORGIA



Tree shore: have a walk among the twisted roots of Driftwood Beach

PHOTOS: EXPLORE GEORGIA, WANDER NORTH GEORGIA

With golden-fringed islands, forest canopies, wildlife and rich history, this southeastern US state offers an abundance of attractions for all



Green scene: beautifully wooded Atlanta

ATLANTA: AN URBAN FOREST

Atlanta is known as "the city in a forest" because of its unique tree canopy, with magnolias, dogwoods, southern pines and oaks engulfing the urban area, cooling both the temperatures and the vibe.

Highlights include a trip to the two centuries-old Piedmont Park and the Atlanta Botanical Garden, home to the largest conservation nursery in the southeast that currently features Thomas Dambo's giant *Trolls: Save the Humans* exhibition, built from reclaimed materials.

No trip to Georgia is complete without a visit to the birthplace of history-changing civil rights activist Dr Martin Luther King Jr, at the national historical park named after him in the Sweet Auburn district.

Traversing the city is an increasingly pleasurable experience thanks to the Atlanta BeltLine. This ongoing sustainable redevelopment project, based on former railroad corridors, connects 45 neighbourhoods through a 22-mile loop of multi-use trails.

COASTAL GEORGIA BEYOND THE BEACH

With more than 100 miles of Atlantic coastline, including 15 barrier islands, there are plenty of options, whether you want to unwind on pristine beaches, book into a historic hotel, play a round of golf or dine on fresh seafood.

Jekyll Island was once an exclusive retreat for the rich in the Gilded Age of the late 19th century; soak up the luxe vibe or take a walk at sunset on Driftwood Beach, with its fascinatingly twisted old trees. Here you'll find the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, the state's only sea turtle education and rehabilitation facility.

Rent a bike on St Simons Island, part of the Golden Isles, and explore its salt marshes brimming with wildlife. At the historic Fort Frederica National Monument, you'll find the preserved remnants of a mid-18th century fort.



Flow for it: explore the Okefenokee Swamp

NATURAL WONDERS

The Okefenokee Swamp, in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, has an ethereal, magical beauty and a unique ecosystem with tranquil waters and deep-green cypress forests draped in Spanish moss. Explore on foot – solo or on a guided tour. You can also take to the waterways on your own by canoe or boat. Camp here to appreciate the area's clear, star-studded night skies.

At Providence Canyon State Park, discover Georgia's "Little Grand Canyon", where the erosion of the coastal plain has led to bewitching geological formations. See if you can spot the rare plumleaf azalea that grows only in this region.

As well as being Georgia's largest barrier island, Cumberland Island is also one of the most spectacular natural habitats in the northern hemisphere. With one of the most extensive ecosystems on the Atlantic coast, the island is almost 75 per cent wild thanks to conservation efforts. Its 18 miles of undeveloped beaches help protect and nurture local fauna.

Little St Simons Island presents 11,000 acres of untamed wilderness to discover. Its conservation centre is dedicated to researching vulnerable wildlife, including turtles and American oystercatchers, as well as developing ways to protect the island's plant communities and animal species.



Creature comfort: the wilds of Cumberland Island protect local animal species

> "Cumberland Island is one of our most spectacular natural habitats and almost 75 per cent wild thanks to conservation



Old and new: enjoy Savannah's unique style

SAVANNAH: THE HOSTESS CITY

River Street, with its modern buildings resting up against former cotton warehouses, encapsulates the enchanting city of Savannah. Here you'll find old mixed with new, be that period architecture, trendy boutiques or cocktails at sunset.

Enjoy Savannah's newest place to hang out: Plant Riverside. This mix of retail, and food, drink and entertainment space, is in a restored power plant building by the river.

Art enthusiasts will revel in the galleries, including the Telfair Academy – the first public art museum in the South – and the SCAD Museum of Art. You can buy the work of emerging artists in the funky Starland District, full of galleries and studios. You'll also find hip stores selling vintage clothing, vinyl and more.



Little wonders: take in Georgia's town life

SMALL TOWN CHARM

In the 1800s it was just a railroad stop but Blue Ridge is now a charming getaway location in the mountains, with galleries, restaurants and local watering holes – from craft breweries to wineries.

It is a great base from which to go white-water rafting or trout fishing in the 100,000-plus acres of Chattahoochee National Forest.

Thomasville, known as Georgia's Rose City, showcases more than 1,500 blooms in its famous rose garden. It has preserved its history like no other town, as you can witness by strolling the brick-paved streets, or visiting one of the many museums, including the Jack Hadley Black History Museum. Take in the Taste of Thomasville Food Tour and before you leave have a glance up The Big Oak, a live oak tree that is more than 327 years old.

For more things to do and places to go, visit exploregeorgia.org

EXPLORE GEORGIA USA

Half-term saved! Last-minute deals

It's not too late to book a getaway for next week. Richard Mellor finds some great options

UK

Scottish high jinks
Forty per cent is being knocked off the price of stays at Landal's leafy, 600-acre Piperdam resort in eastern Scotland. Squarely aimed at families, this place lays on a soft-play area, an indoor pool, a spa for frazzled parents, golf and activities from archery to human foosball. Children should also enjoy fun fact-finding trails in nearby Dundee's V&A Museum. Commencing May 29, four nights' self-catering for four in a lodge with an outdoor hot tub now costs from £449 (landal.co.uk).

See Sussex by campervan
Sea Lanes Brighton, with its heated waterfront lido, opens on June 2. Hiring a motorhome enables families to enjoy a swim before or after fun jaunts to the South Downs or the Seven Sisters. Still available next week, the automatic Dale's Campervan provides two beds, air-conditioning, heating, an external shower and simple kitchen facilities. Great for family bonding. Picking it up in Lewes, five days' self-catering for four costs from £769, including breakdown cover (yescapa.co.uk). Stay two miles from the sea a short distance northeast of Brighton at Chalky Downs Campsite on Bevendean Farm where one night's camping for four is from £48 (chalkydownscampsite.com).

Elephants and ice creams in Kent
Bloom Stays still has a handful of characterful Kent holiday homes with half-term availability. One is Raspberry Cottage, a thatched number near Deal with beams and board games behind its pink walls, and Solley's Ice Cream Parlour dangerously close by. Thirty minutes' drive away is Howletts Wildlife Park, where half-term tickets are reduced by 25 per cent if you book online in advance. Giant anteaters and African elephants await (adults £15; aspinallfoundation.org). Seven nights' self-catering for four costs from £1,179 (bloomstays.com).

Boat along the Thames
The bit of the River Thames that lies south of Oxford is rural, pretty and peaceful. Saving 25 per cent, you can explore it from a two-bedroom Tango motorboat, which has a large saloon and rays-ready sun deck. Spend days pootling between pretty villages, pausing in pubs or alighting for Wallingford's ruined castle and steam railway to Cholsey. No boating experience is necessary, and a demo, covering locks, will be provided. Beginning in Benson on May 29, five nights' self-catering for four costs from £1,289 (leboat.co.uk).







Top: Bages in Languedoc. France. Above left: Raspberry Cottage in Kent. Above right: the Fairmont Maldives

EUROPE

Secret Greece
In Epirus, an unheralded region on Greece's northwestern mainland, the town of Sivota possesses one of those classic Greek harbours. Tavernas line its sunny promenade as boats bob close by and a half-asleep air pervades. The wider region throws in hills blanketed by pine, cypress and olive trees above a snaking coastline with stretches of pale-sand beach. Also attractive, Sivota's two modern Olga Harbour Apartments have seaside balconies. And, for May 28 departures, they're 40 per cent cheaper — leaving seven nights' self-catering for four costing £649pp, including flights and transfers (sunvil.co.uk).

Parisian pad
Plum Guide still has some high-quality Paris properties available next week. Typically stylish is Pursuit of Happiness, a two-bedroom apartment in the bistro-lined Bastille neighbourhood. Modern art paintings enliven its clean interiors — all whites and woods — but you might prefer to be scoffing hot croissants out on the private terrace. Tempting Marais boutiques beckon within ten minutes' stroll, while nearby Métro stations link to all other sights. Beginning May 30, three nights' self-catering for five costs from £1,384 (plumguide.com). Eurostar trains to Paris cost from £338 return.

Andorran activities
Adults and teenagers aged 15 or over might like this action-packed small-group tour to Andorra. Departing on May 28 (and in the summer holidays), it delivers biking, hiking and guided whitewater rafting in the picturesque Pyrenean principality, plus a zip-line and rope obstacle course. With French and Spanish widely spoken, language skills can be practised too. Saving 15 per cent, seven nights' B&B now costs from £740pp including activities, transport and four dinners (intrepidtravel.com). Flights to Toulouse from £282 return.

Luxury Languedoc villas
Beginning today (May 27), British Airways' new service from Gatwick to Montpellier makes it easier still to reach Château Capitoul. An hour's drive west along the Languedoc coast, this luxurious 19th-century manor on a wine-producing estate near Narbonne offers views of the Mediterranean. Private villas suit families, as do free-to-borrow bikes, a huge heated pool and the tennis court. Times readers can save 15 per cent next week by quoting TIMESHALFTERM. That leaves five nights' self-catering for four costing from £1,745 (chateaucapitoul.com). Flights start from £248 return.

Authentic Lanzarote
A soulful alternative to the Canary Island's mass-market resorts, Lanzarote Retreats handpicks comfortable rental properties in quieter spots providing a soulful alternative to this Canary island's mass-market resorts. Its British owners also oversee Finca de Arrieta, a solar and wind-powered "eco-village" featuring 21 garden-set yurts, villas or cottages. The pretty beach at La Garita lies close by, while on-site perks span spectacular sea and mountain views, a solar-powered pool, chill-out areas and chickens providing fresh eggs. During half-term, three nights' self-catering for four in an Eco-Lodge costs from £315, or a night's self-catering for two in a yurt costs from £90 (lanzaroteretreats.com). Return flights from £309.

Family trekking in Iceland
Smouldering lava fields, 100m-wide waterfalls, mountain passes, nesting puffins and black-sand beaches add drama to this walking-focused group tour to lesser-visited eastern Iceland. Open to over-12s, it's based in a fishing village, Bakkagerdi, and takes walkers through a valley supposedly full of "hidden people", aka elves. Farm-to-table meals are served nightly. Departing on May 28 (plus throughout summer) and reduced by £220pp, five nights' full board is £1,259pp, including transport and activities (gadventures.com). For half-term, flights to Egilsstadir start at £443 return with Icelandair.

MID & LONG HAUL

Half-price Caribbean
On St Lucia's northwestern coast, the hillside Windjammer Landing resort consists of whitewashed buildings scattered above a private sandy cove shaded by palm trees. As some guests go off windsurfing, paddleboarding, kayaking or snorkelling, others swing in hammocks and ponder spa treatments or the evening's food choices. Book before June 30 for half-price rates — including over half-term — and $250 (£200) resort credits. Six nights' B&B beginning May 29 costs from £553pp, based on four sharing an Oceanfront one-bedroom suite (windjammer-landing.com). Flights to St Lucia departing May 29 to June 1 begin at £701 with British Airways via Skyscanner.

Underwater wonders in the Maldives
Children entranced by *The Little Mermaid* film should love the Fairmont Maldives. A private-island resort in the secluded and white-sand Shaviyani atoll, it offers an underwater gallery, coral regeneration project and lagoon full of colourful creatures. All 120 luxury villas have their own private pool. With kids under 12 able to stay and eat free, seven nights' half-board, departing on May 28, costs from £1,390pp based on a family of four with two children under 12, including flights and seaplane transfers (bestattravel.co.uk).

Richard Mellor

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Fri 9 — **Horta, Faial, Azores** (arrive late am)

Sat 10 — **Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Azores**

Mon 12 - Tue 13 — **Lisbon, Portugal** (arrive early pm – overnight)
★Recommended Excursion×: Portuguese Riviera & Sintra
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Wed 14 — **Oporto, Portugal**

Thu 15 — **La Coruña, Spain**

Fri 16 — **Bilbao, Spain** (arrive late am – depart late night)

Sat 17 — **Biarritz (from Saint-Jean-de-Luz), France**

Sun 18 - Mon 19 — **Bordeaux, France** (arrive late am – overnight – depart late night)
★Recommended Excursion×: Bordeaux and its surrounding Vineyards
Admire sublime architecture during a panoramic drive through the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bordeaux, then appreciate the region's outstanding wines during a tour and tasting at a celebrated château



Wed 21 — **St. Helier, Jersey**
★MAIDEN PORT★

Thu 22 — **Paris (from Honfleur), France**

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ALAMY


The Cambrian Mountains

Swim, stargaze and stay in style in 'secret' Welsh corner

Lisa Johnson meets a collective offering quirky activities from a cottage in the Cambrians

It's midnight in the village of Rhandirmwyn, about seven miles outside Llandovery, and the sky is so full of stars that I'm struggling to make out the few constellations I know. Following our guide, Dafydd Wyn Morgan, my husband and I trudge through a densely planted conifer plantation; in the red beams of our head torches, the leafless branches look as if they've been blasted by lightning or, worse, "like something out of *The Blair Witch Project*", suggests Dafydd cheerfully.

Back on open ground, we are spooked again as a chimney stack looms into view, then the derelict engine house of what used to be one of the most productive lead mines in southern Wales but now has trees sprouting through the roof. Dafydd scrambles down a rocky slope, pulls a tripod out of his backpack and sets up a light behind a window, illuminating a spectral sapling.

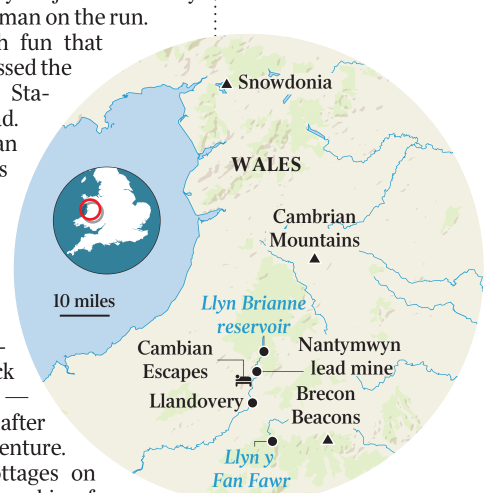
"I see a face and arms," he says delightedly, photographing it against the nightscape. "It's dancing."

Dafydd works in community tourism now but he used to be a primary school teacher, and he still visits local schools as Twm Siôn Cati, a 16th-century Robin Hood figure who, like Dafydd, lived in Tregaron. Lately he has also joined the growing number of astrophotographers soaking up the dark skies of the Cambrian Mountains — the sparsely populated region between the Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia that missed out on national park status in the 1970s, and last year branded itself an "Area of Astounding Natural Beauty" (as opposed to the official label of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). It's in this capacity as an astrophotographer that Dafydd is part of the Wild Collective, a new team of expert guides assembled by Cambrian Escapes, the cottage collection where I'm staying in Cilycwm. Offering a number of exciting and surprising experiences that extend beyond the norm, their aim, says the Cambrian Escapes founder Tanya Jordan, is to allow guests to immerse themselves fully in the area while at the same time benefiting the local community.

From the Nantymwyn lead mine we drive up the valley to the Llyn Brianne reservoir, one of nine Dark Sky Discovery Sites that make up the Cambrian Mountains Astro Trail. The reservoir supplies Swansea with water and, during the drought last summer, the falling water level revealed a farm that was flooded when the river was dammed. The man-made lake looks ghostly in the cold, damp air and it feels as if it's sucking us in. Dafydd points out the constellations using the Stellarium app and sets up a photo of my husband under the Milky Way. He works with a Sony A7III camera and 14mm lens, which he has set to ISO 1600, f1.8 and shutter speed 15s, and passes us the remote to have a go. To create a portrait he takes two pictures, one of the person and the other of the night sky, later blending them in Photoshop to dramatic effect. We look through the viewfinder and Dafydd jokes that my husband looks like a man on the run. We've had so much fun that we've completely missed the International Space Station passing overhead.


A bedroom at Cambrian Escapes

Back at Cambrian Escapes, the luxuries of our beautiful, eclectically furnished former coach house — wood burner, slipper bath, mezzanine bed, artisanal goodies from the Black Mountains Smokery — are doubly welcome after our night-time adventure.



There are three cottages on this 75-acre former working farm, which Tanya and Duncan Jordan have spent the past five years renovating, as well as ten private camping pitches, which open during the May half-term and summer. The sky is still clear, so we have breakfast outside listening to the birds, then Tanya takes us into a field that is part of a pilot scheme to reverse the decline in meadows: after grazing it with horses and belted Galloway cattle, and cutting it after it has seeded, the Jordans have recorded 87 species here, including orchids and cuckoo flowers (plus the orange-tip butterflies that lay their eggs in them). The rest of their land is similarly idyllic, full of trees from the stream to the hill: Tanya has planted 3,500 herself, but many have emerged on their own since the couple introduced low-level grazing.

While a Meadow Mooch (free) is a chance to chat biodiversity and nature recovery, other Wild Collective experiences (there are ten, but they can be individually tailored) give guests the opportunity to try something they might not have the confidence to, says Tanya — such as a Wild Swim Walk with Nia Lloyd Knott (from £50pp), who suggests a hike to the "secret" glacial lake of Llyn y Fan Fawr in the western Beacons, which is Walk 8 in her new book, *Wild Swimming Walks South Wales*.

We meet her in a lay-by, 30 minutes' drive from Cilycwm, with a ready-for-anything pack on her back. As well as being a South Wales native and an experienced guide, Nia is a qualified Mountain Leader who specialises in water safety. Turning our backs on the better known Pen y Fan peak, we follow the young River Tawe up through red sandstone moorland dotted with sheep, stopping by a waterfall for a first dip, and Nia explains that she launched Wild Trails Wales to invite people to "find their wild", whatever that means to them, from walking under a full moon to camping out with friends.

We continue over boggy ground to the lake and swim in the icy water as a breeze ripples across the surface and red kites circle the 2,633ft peak of Fan Brycheiniog. Nicely buzzing, we drink chai in the shelter of a grassy mound while Nia tells us that in Welsh mythology, the link between our world and the Otherworld (Annwn) is through water. There are more waterfalls on the way back down, as well as a standing stone and a stone circle, both from the Bronze Age.

Returning to Cilycwm, we are advised to stop at the International Welsh Rarebit Centre for tea, but it is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays (rarebit from £7.70; fb.com/The-International-Welsh-Rarebit-Centre). As is the Towy Bridge Inn, a popular but remote spot on the river that only opens at weekends because the rising cost of living has made it too expensive to run the pub if it's not busy (mains from £11; fb.com/towybridge).

Our final Wild Collective experience is with the artist Jane Evans, who lives outside Cilycwm in the house she inherited from her parents and runs felting and cyanotype workshops in her peaceful riverside studio (from £85pp). Making felt – laying down wool fibres, wetting them, massaging them, rolling them and generally throwing them about — is hugely enjoyable, and our host's delicious cheese on toast lunch almost makes up for the lack of rarebit. As for our cyanotypes of wildflowers, they are the ideal memento of our trip: a gentle counterpart to the astrophotograph of my husband under the Milky Way.


Wild horses by Llyn Brianne reservoir

Need to know

Lisa Johnson was a guest of Cambrian Escapes, which has two nights' self-catering for two from £250 (cambrianescapes.co.uk); one night's camping pitch for two from £40 (darkskiescamping.wales); and Wild Collective experiences from £50pp. Two nights' Find Your Wild Weekend hosted by Nia Lloyd Knott and Tanya Jordan costs from £210pp (July 7-9; wildtrailswales.com)

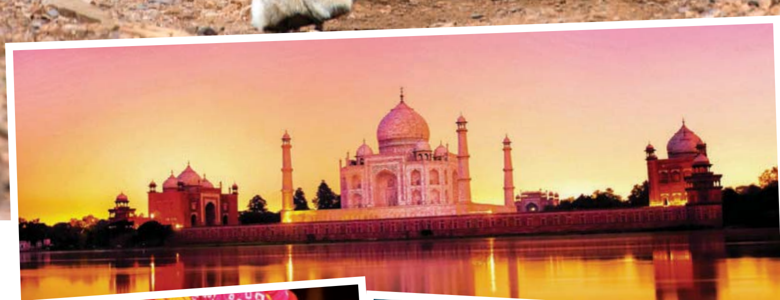
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TOUR

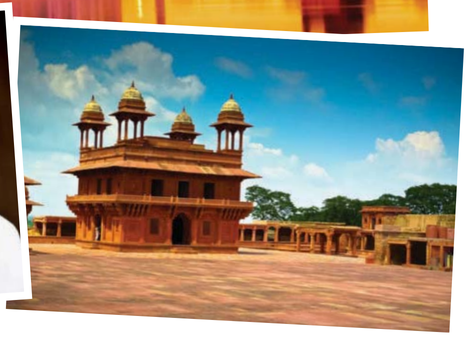


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Day Three - Old Delhi
This morning we continue our city tour, first visiting Old Delhi, starting with the Raj Ghat. We see the great Red Fort before visiting the Jama Masjid. We then drive to Agra.

Day Four - Taj Mahal
We rise early for the jewel of our tour, watching the sun rise over the majestic Taj Mahal. We continue our tour with a visit to Agra Fort.

Day Five - Fatehpur Sikri
Leaving Agra this morning we continue towards the ancient, abandoned city of Fatehpur Sikri.

Day Six - Ranthambore tiger safari
An early start as we head out to the park for our safari in search of tigers. We return to our hotel in the late morning, with time to relax. In the afternoon we take our second trip into the park.

Day Seven - Jaipur
Today we visit Jaipur, known as the 'Pink City'. Our afternoon tour visits the famous Hawa Mahal, known as the Palace of Winds, before we continue to the Astronomical Observatory.

Day Eight - Amber Fort
This morning you'll visit Amber Fort, one of the masterpieces of Rajput architecture

Day Nine - Rajasthan
Today we visit the luxurious residence of the local kings, now lovingly restored as a Heritage Hotel, the Alsisar Mahal, where we stay for the night with a buffet dinner.

Day 10 - Delhi
After breakfast we head back to Delhi and the last night of our tour at the Le Meridian, New Delhi, with dinner included.

Day 11 - Train to Shimla
We take the express train from Delhi for our journey north to Kalka. Here we change trains onto the Shimla narrow-gauge 'toy' train.

Day 12 - Shimla
Today we explore the many reminders of British colonial life in Shimla, including the immense Viceregal Lodge and its botanical gardens.

Day 13 - Free day in Shimla
Enjoy a day at leisure in Shimla. A sumptuous buffet dinner at the Oberoi is included tonight.

Day 14 - Train to Delhi
Today we start our return journey to Delhi. This time we descend by car to Kalka or Chandigarh from where we catch the train back to Delhi..

Day 15 - Return flight
We depart Delhi in the afternoon on our flight home to the UK, arriving back the same day.

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The Times hotel guide
The Bracken Hide Hotel
Isle of Skye

Rooms and suites 7/10
Food and drink 8/10
What else does it offer? 8/10
Where is it? 9/10
Overall score 8/10


The central hub


The Whisky Hide bar

It has taken six years and £8 million to build, so it's little wonder that this was Scotland's most hotly anticipated opening in 2023. The Bracken Hide stands high above Portree, halfway up Skye's east coast, and has 45 en suite glamping pods and a central hub housing a bar, restaurant and lounge.

So far so bog-standard glampsite — except for that central hub. A modern take on a traditional Skye black house, the stone and glass building rises from the hillside like a Flintstones-meets-Norman Foster bothy. It has asymmetric barrel-vaulted ceilings and 3.5m-high windows overlooking Portree and the sea. It's hard to think of a more striking building north of Holyrood. The real star is the bar. Low-lit, with burnt larch and brushed-brass walls, it has a sunken barman's pit and a quietly seductive Ibiza jazz playlist. Sophisticated cocktails mixed by the barman Chance Hollings are already a hit with locals.

Rooms and suites
Dotted about the 52-acre hillside site, the 45 pods lack the hub's ambition but still have charm. Beds are good, showers are powerful. Children under 12 can sleep on folding beds, the Harris Tweed headboards and fired-pine barrel ceilings are nice design details, and there are few finer places to sip a wee dram than on the decking out front, with views across the water to Raasay, sheep grazing between pods and cuckoos calling from the neighbouring woods.

Food and drink
The dining room is a *Mad Men*-chic medley of crushed-velvet benches and mid-century chairs, the space flooded with shifting coastal light. The chef George Fraser's food is expertly cooked, with local produce aplenty. Interesting vegetarian offerings include a goat's cheese and pistachio mousse starter, wrapped in nori seaweed with beetroot textures. A fillet of Highland beef with chicken liver pâté was meltingly tender.

Jeremy Lazell was a guest of the Bracken Hide Hotel, which has B&B pod doubles from £140; mains from £18.95 (brackenhide.co.uk)

Cooked breakfasts were decent, although mysteriously unavailable one morning, when continental only was on offer.

What else does it offer?
There is a mezzanine snug above the dining room, with a 100in TV and two retro arcade games machines. A pair of aspen sauna huts with a bracing plunge pool are the standout Insta hit — a treat after days in the Cuillin hills.

Where is it?
You're less than a 15-minute walk from Portree, Skye's biggest town, and 45 minutes' drive from the Cuillin hills.

Jeremy Lazell



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Travel doctor Solving your holiday dilemmas

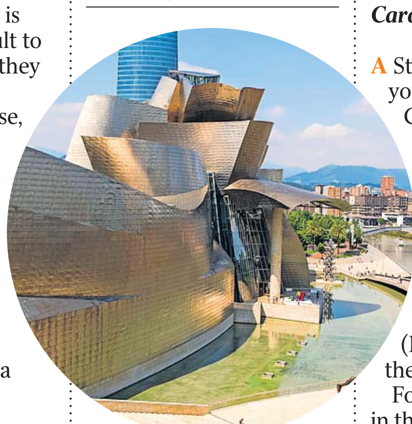


Julia Brookes
Consumer expert

ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES



The Danube and Melk Abbey, Austria. Below: Guggenheim Bilbao, Spain



Q As I often travel to Europe, I keep careful track of the number of days I spend in the Schengen area to keep within the 90 in 180 rolling days rule. With only six spare days, I was looking for a river cruise holiday that would keep me within my allowance. I found one with Riviera, starting and ending in Budapest, which is in the Schengen area.

The whole trip is 15 days, from Budapest to the Black Sea. From what I can see on the itinerary, four days are within Hungary, but the remainder of the trip is outside the Schengen area and so it would be possible for me to make the trip without breaking the Schengen rules. However, if my passport is stamped on arrival at Budapest and only stamped on departure from Budapest, it will show 15 days in the Schengen area; it would be an overstay and I could be liable to a fine or travel ban to the whole area. I asked Riviera how my time out of Schengen would be recorded in my passport but was told it didn't want to give inaccurate information and couldn't help. Can you clarify?
Jill Bowerbank

A You'd hope that travel companies would be able to provide advice on such an important issue, but given the responsibility for complying with entry requirements is entirely yours and that it's so difficult to get official guidance on the details, they tend to demur. Unfortunately, you won't be able to take this trip because, as Uniworld, another river cruise line, confirmed, your passport will only be stamped going in and out of Budapest and 15 days will be recorded because passports are not stamped at interim ports of call. Perhaps switch to a five night-cruise? Avalon has a Danube Symphony itinerary this summer including Hungary, Austria, Slovakia and Germany from £1,511pp (avalonwaterways.co.uk).

Q We're thinking of a long weekend in July for my birthday and Bilbao sounds sunny, foodie and arty. Are there any lovely hotels we could splurge on?
Caroline Winn

A Stay at the Gran Hotel Domine and you're bang opposite the glorious Guggenheim; pick a premier king room and there's a cracking view of Jeff Koons's fabulous flower-studded puppy, which sits at the entrance. The hotel's rooftop terrace is a brilliant spot for breakfast or a happy-hour cocktail, and you can recover from a hard day's gallery-hopping in the slick spa (B&B doubles from £176, or £247 with the view; hoteldominebilbao.com).

For something a bit edgier, Hotel Tayko in the old town is a 1920s building with an industrial-chic interior and minimalist rooms. There's a wine bar and restaurant by the celebrated chef Martin Berasategui and the Guggenheim is a 25-minute stroll away (B&B river-view doubles from £267; taykohotels.com).

Q A friend and I are hoping to spend a week or two in July in a holiday cottage. We each want our own bedroom and bathroom, but I've had trouble finding any two-bedroom properties with more than one bathroom. We'll be driving and any part of the country will do (apart from too near Croydon!) but the seaside would be great. What can you suggest?
Julian Shurgold

A No 9 Putsborough is a swish bolt hole in north Devon with Woolacombe and Putsborough beaches on the doorstep. It has two bedrooms and two bathrooms and you could use the building's gym, pool and sauna. A week in early July costs £1,319 (classic.co.uk). Or gaze at the Cumbrian coastline from the picture windows in the newly renovated Coach House at the Old Parsonage in the village of Ireleth-in-Furness. It ticks your bedroom and bathroom boxes, and vaulted ceilings with grand wooden beams are a bonus. A week in July costs from £741 (sallyscottages.co.uk).

Q While on a Tui-organised boat excursion in the Caribbean on March 20 with Marella Cruises, my wife had a serious accident, resulting in a fractured hip and wrist. After much insistence on our part, the ship's doctor attended and confirmed my wife's injuries. During this time all our luggage appeared on the quayside without any prior consultation. We were disembarked and abandoned rather than being allowed to return on board and carry on another day to the next port of call where the medical facilities are very good — unlike on the island where we were disembarked. My wife suffered days of pain as a result and thanks to our travel insurance we were eventually airlifted to Barbados. Surely Marella breached its duty of care?
Phil and Sue Bray

A I'm sorry to say that your wife was unlucky: if a cruise passenger suffers a serious fracture, it's standard practice for them to be disembarked at the next port, even though this can be a shocking experience. A Tui spokesperson said: "Our medical team on board attended the scene to assist Mrs Bray, but due to the extent of her injuries further medical attention in port was required. As per our Tui policy, if a customer is injured and requires further medical attention which we cannot provide on the ship they are disembarked at the next port. In these difficult circumstances, our main priority is getting the customer medical attention as soon as possible."

Contact us

If you have a gripe, suggestion or question relating to your holidays, please email **traveldoctor@thetimes.co.uk**

Don't put up with this

Icelandair left us out in the cold

Four of us were booked to fly with Icelandair from Reykjavik to Gatwick on December 19 but all flights were cancelled because of snowstorms. We were told to book a hotel and claim the cost back. Icelandair was unable to get us on any flights on December 20 or 21, so we paid for more hotel accommodation, food, taxis and so on. We were then told that we had disappeared from their database, but were finally offered a flight to Dublin on December 22. The supervisor offered us £521pp for this additional day's delay and said she was entering it on the system; she also asked us to book our own onward flights from Dublin to Gatwick and to claim those back from Icelandair. After taking eight weeks to make a decision, Icelandair refused to pay our entire claim, which totalled just over £4,500 and advised us to contact our travel insurer. Can you help?
Lorraine Tandy

You were certainly entitled to the reimbursement of the extra expenses that mounted up during the delay, and for the cost of the extra flight back from Dublin. You weren't initially entitled to compensation because terrible weather counts as an "extraordinary circumstance", which means airlines don't have to pay out. But after the second delay you were due that too. After my intervention, Icelandair apologised and has now paid you £4,509.



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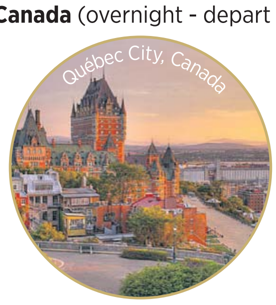
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Sun 29 **Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada**

Mon 30 **Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

OCTOBER 2024

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Sat 5 **Boston, Massachusetts, USA**
One of the United States' oldest cities, Boston has had a pivotal role in American history since it was founded almost 400 years ago. Today, this capital of Massachusetts offers a fantastic array of things to see and do, from its cultural attractions to grand architecture



Sun 6 **Rockland, Maine, USA**

Mon 7 **Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada**

Thu 10 **St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada**
The surrounding land is rugged, with a dramatic coastline heavily indented with bays and inlets, which give way to an interior terrain of wild mountains, hills, lakes and rivers



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Day 4 **Nordfjorden – Loen, Norway**
Gaze in awe as you pass Hornelen, Europe's highest sea cliff before heading towards Jostedalsbreen, Europe's largest glacier. If conditions allow, you'll land in Loen where there is much to discover in the shadow of a mighty glacier. Take the Loen Skylift to enjoy spectacular views from the summit of Mount Hoven

Day 5 ***Relax at sea on your way to the Arctic Circle***
Keep your eyes on the scenery as you pass Helgelan County. Sail past the Seven Sisters Mountain range and Torghatten mountain, with its distinct hole right through the middle. Travel under the Auroral Zone, a prime area for the Northern Lights

Day 6 **Lofoten – Reine, Norway**
A majestic wall of snowcapped mountains signal your arrival in stunning Lofoten. Then you'll spend the day in the picture-perfect fishing village of Reine, known for its iconic red fishing huts. Your included activity for the day is a trip to Å, one of the best-preserved traditional fishing villages in Norway

Day 7 **Alta, Norway**
Dubbed 'The Northern Lights City', Alta is the turning point of your expedition and one of the northernmost towns in the world. It's charming to stroll around, swathed in Christmas lights and snow. Lying 70º north of the Arctic Circle, Alta sits directly beneath the Auroral Oval, a zone known for consistent Northern Lights activity. If the conditions are right, you could be in for a show

Day 8 **Tromsø, Norway**
Look out for humpback whales, stop off at the Arctic Cathedral or drop in on the world's northernmost brewery. On your included Polar Museum visit, discover the city's heritage or try an optional excursion like dogsledding×



Day 9 **Narvik, Norway**
Explore the galleries, shops and restaurants that specialise in local seafood then ride the cable car to the top of Mount Narvik and in the evening look out for the Northern Lights

Day 10 - Day 11 ***Go off the beaten track***
Over the next two days, the Expedition Team may go off the beaten track to discover many islands and fjords in the region and look for wildlife in their natural habitat, making your voyage unique

Day 12 **Bergen, Norway**
Enjoy the unique charm of one of Norway's most picturesque cities, surrounded by seven mountains and the sea. Explore the cobbled streets and alleys on foot, stopping at museums, artisanal boutiques, cafes or a pub. Enjoy an included excursion up Mount Fløyen



Day 13 **Egersund, Norway**
With its brightly coloured, wooden houses, you'll love the cosy feel of Egersund. People have lived here since the Stone Age. Take an optional hike× in the hills or enjoy exploring the town centre on your own

Day 14 ***Relax at sea on your way back to London Tilbury***
As you cruise back to London Tilbury, relax and reflect on some of the incredible experiences you've enjoyed on this expedition. Spend time in the Explorer Bar, relax in the hot tub or sauna, head to the Science Center or much more

Day 15 **Arrive in London Tilbury**

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saturday review



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Caitlin FitzGerald

The actress on the Succession finale, marriage to Aidan Turner and her new West End role



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Hugo Rifkind on TV



Dascha Polanco and Natasha Lyonne in the drama Poker Face

God's truth, I love this human lie detector

How useful would it be to be able always to spot a lie? To what practical use could such a trick be put? For a police officer, a journalist, or even a judge, knowing what isn't true is of quite a lot less value than figuring out what is, let alone being able to prove it. On its own, it's a bit like being able to spot instantly what isn't the answer to a really complicated maths problem. As in, great. But it doesn't tell you how to divide 5,000,032 by 58.

In *Poker Face*, Natasha Lyonne plays a human lie detector. It's an otherworldly skill, but she's still managed to spend her life thus far wringing almost no useful benefit from it. Winding up in Las Vegas, her character, Charlie Cale, has a crack at gambling before casino bosses figure her out and bar her, which means she has to live in a trailer and work as a waitress instead. But one day a mobster casino boss decides to exploit her skill in a scam. Everything goes wrong, and across America on the run she goes, solving crimes at every turn. Like the Littlest Hobo.

As an actress, the great thing about Lyonne is that she always seems to know things. Different things, depending on her character, but always something. In *American Pie*, the thing she knew about was sex. Much later, in *Orange Is the New Black*, what she knew about was prison. She's the sort of person you would meet on holiday who would somehow know all the bars and clubs and bouncers despite having been there only a day longer than you. Like she's come up through the ground from some greater firmament, like a mushroom.

The same sense of remove, that knowing, psychic link to the world outside the fourth wall, was also what made her so magnetic in the cult lockdown hit *Russian Doll*, in which she played a character who kept dying and knew it. Now, in *Poker Face*, she knows lies. Because of the way each episode is structured — scene setting, stuff she never sees — we know the lies too. This means, as ever, Lyonne's character is closer to us, the audience, than to anyone she meets. It's brilliantly done, and I can't think of anyone else who could do it. And it more than makes up for the way that she's sort of played the same character in everything she's done.

I won't tell you too much about the episodes for fear of spoiling them. I've seen three. In the first, Adrien Brody is the Vegas mobster. In the second, she's at a truckstop somewhere, after somebody gets pushed off a roof. In the third, she meets Texas barbecue enthusiasts who fall foul of carbon monoxide. The Mob pursuit overarches each one, but they stand alone too. That people keep getting killed as soon as she has made friends with them is, of course, ludicrous, in a traditional "is Jessica Fletcher killing all these people?" sort of way, but that's the conceit.

Poker Face is as sleek and smart as anything you'll find on telly today. It's also very funny, often because of Lyonne/Cale's wayward boho dishevelment, and I'd refer you in advance to a bit in episode two when she wakes up looking sepulchral on a picnic table next to an opportunistic buzzard. At heart, though, it's a flashback to those classic crime episodicals of yore, from *Columbo* to *Quincy* to, yes, *Murder She Wrote*. I loved them all, and I love this too.

***Fubar*, a new Arnold Schwarzenegger** vehicle on Netflix, has a similarly retro vibe. This time we're harking back to *The A-Team* or *MacGyver*, teatime silliness for boys. Schwarzenegger plays an ageing undercover CIA agent called Luke Brunner. He is divorced from his wife thanks to years of lies (his family think he's some sort of travelling salesman) and about to retire. But, after an opening sequence involving stealing diamonds and killing everybody, we learn he must do the traditional One More Job. So off he goes to Guyana.

Here he drops in on Boro (Gabriel Luna), an arms dealer who lives in a mildly idyllic Butlin's for paramilitaries in the jungle, as all arms dealers of course do. "I provide all this and in return my soldiers provide me with unconditional loyalty," explains Boro, who may need somebody else to explain what "unconditional" means.

Long ago, we learn, Brunner killed Boro's father, and felt bad about it. So he kept in touch, but under an assumed identity, which is the one he's using now to infiltrate the gang and steal back a nuclear bomb in a briefcase. Feasibly, I should have mentioned the bomb before. But this is the sort of show in which one should always assume there's a nuclear bomb in a briefcase unless explicitly told otherwise. He's also told there's another CIA agent there whom he will need to extract.

This agent turns out to be his daughter, Emma (Monica Barbaro), which is a shock because he doesn't know she's a CIA agent any more than she knows he is. Oh, the larks. In comedy terms, Schwarzenegger has always had a slightly surprising prissy shocked mode, and that's what he channels here. As far as he was concerned, Emma was a straight-A student dream daughter. There she is, though, fighting while smoking and swearing as assorted arms dealers cheer her on. Then they run off into the jungle to do spy stuff. When Boro asks why these two people who aren't even supposed to know each other are spending so much time together, Brunner tells him they've been shagging. Just lovely.

Poker Face
Sky Max/Now

Fubar
Netflix

Succession
Sky Atlantic/Now



> **It's as sleek and smart and funny as anything you'll find on telly today**

Fubar is, of course, utter nonsense. It's fun nonsense, though. My favourite bit comes towards the end of the first episode when Arnie punches a man unconscious for shooting his daughter in the shoulder. "That's. Her. Violin. Arm," he grunts. Also, right at the beginning you get to see him speaking German. Turns out it's not just an accent. Who knew?

Damn and blast. I'm on holiday next week, and while that's broadly splendid it also means I don't get to review the finale of *Succession*. So I thought I'd have a crack at the penultimate episode instead.

The best tweet I have seen on the show came from an NBC reporter called Kalhan Rosenblatt. "If *Succession* was recast with exclusively Muppets," she wrote, "who would you keep as the one human actor to remain on the show?" The answer could be anyone. Logan being just as angry, but with Muppets? Kendall being just as self-loathing, but with Muppets? Roman being rude to Muppets? Each would be gold.

But everything about this show has been gold. It never slips up, and certainly didn't with the latest episode, which centred on Logan's funeral. Think of how well you know the characters. Kieran Culkin's weeping failure of a speech as Roman was Emmy-worthy, as everyone said, but it was more than that. In a few short minutes, it was the point to which his character had always been destined to arrive. Four whole seasons of wisecracking vileness, and suddenly we saw why. He's not tough enough, Roman. He doesn't even want to be. It's over for him. He can't cut it at all.

Jeremy Strong's Kendall, meanwhile, was messianic, giving the most rousing defence you've ever heard of all that horrible Trumpian nonsense these people are supposed to cleave to. As he spoke, you could almost believe in it. But does he? Right then, he surely did. But for ever? At his core? That has always been the question.

Succession, though, is about more than perfect dialogue. Consider the way they all have to crawl to Justin Kirk's probable President Mencken, even though they made him and he used to have to crawl to them. Logan would have seen that coming; they did not. And to have all this, the funeral, the uncertainty, the squabbling, the destabilisation large and small against a backdrop of civil meltdown and riots? Even *King Lear* only had a storm. By the end, as Roman took an Antifa elbow to the face, it was as if the country was one of those fantasy castles that starts to crumble once the monster is dead. The Death Star, after Darth Vader. The base, after Blofeld. America, after Logan Roy.

And we still don't know who is going to win. Surely not Roman. Could be Shiv. Could be Kendall, although something tells me we haven't heard the last of that kid he let die in that car. Anyone could swoop in now, Tom, Gerri, maybe Greg. Even the hapless joke sibling Con, who has undergone a covert transformation into the least self-loathing and lonely of the bunch.

Perhaps it's a mistake to foresee any sort of clear ending. Because the whole point of succession, if not *Succession*, is that the end never comes. So whoever it is, my bet is that in the closing moments we'll be wondering who comes next.

cover story

Who will win in Succession? ‘I feel it’s gonna be Shiv’

Caitlin FitzGerald, who plays Tabitha opposite Kieran Culkin’s Roman in the TV drama, talks to Ed Potton about the finale, marrying Aidan Turner and taking The Crucible to the West End

Oh Roman, where to now? Anyone who has watched the most recent episode of *Succession* — and spoilers follow — will be wondering how Kieran Culkin’s twisted man-child can come back from this. Having imploded spectacularly while trying to deliver his father Logan’s eulogy — being dubbed the “grim weeper” by the next president of the United States has to hurt — Roman was last spotted lost and bruised in a wave of protesters.

Who can he turn to now? Could it be the woman sitting opposite me in the backstage area of the National Theatre? Caitlin FitzGerald played Tabitha, Roman’s shrewd girlfriend, in the first two seasons of the show. Perhaps Tabitha is about to get a knock on the door from her distraught billionaire ex. The idea has come out of nowhere — I’m meant to be talking to FitzGerald, 39, about her role in the West End transfer of *The Crucible*. She left *Succession* in 2019, and when I ask about it I’m expecting a nostalgia trip. It turns out that she has shot scenes for this final season, although with *Succession*, things are never certain until an episode goes out.

She wasn’t in the penultimate episode, so it’s all eyes on the finale. She can’t talk about the scenes she shot, and HBO is equally tight-lipped. If she does return, though, what a time to do it. FitzGerald is a fan, obviously.

“I never watch things I’m in, but I have to watch this. I had been really heartbroken not to be in season three.”

It turns out that Canadian Covid quarantine rules stopped FitzGerald travelling from a job in Toronto to the *Succession* set in New York. “I didn’t know when I shot my last season that it was going to be the final one,” she says. “So I’m really glad that I got to go back and just see everybody one last time.”

If FitzGerald does appear in the finale let’s hope she has a scene as shudder-inducingly fabulous as Kendall’s rap in honour of Logan, which she watched open-mouthed — “Not a lot of acting to be done, actually.” Or the one when Tabitha and Roman are trying to have sex and he asks her to pretend to be dead.

“If we agree on a wrong thing then it’s no longer wrong,” Roman pleads. “That’s just basic boner arithmetic.”

“I think maybe the morgue is closing for the night,” Tabitha says, deadpan, before scarpering to another room. “If you hear my electric toothbrush a little too long, that’s because I’m masturbating.”

“There’s always, like, 17 alts for every joke,” FitzGerald says. “ ‘Or you could say this, or you could say this.’ They’re joke machines. It’s really fun — lots of laughs.”

Culkin is, she says, “an absolute madman”. He had been “really nervous” about the prospect of improvising in the show, but turned out to be a “savant” in that regard. “The things that come out of his mouth are unbelievable,” she says. “Sick, but unbelievable.” A bit like Roman, then? “It’s a very embodied character.” Who does she think will win the Waystar game of thrones? Roman looks a long shot now. “I’d love it if Tom made a last-minute play, but I feel like it’s gonna be Shiv.”

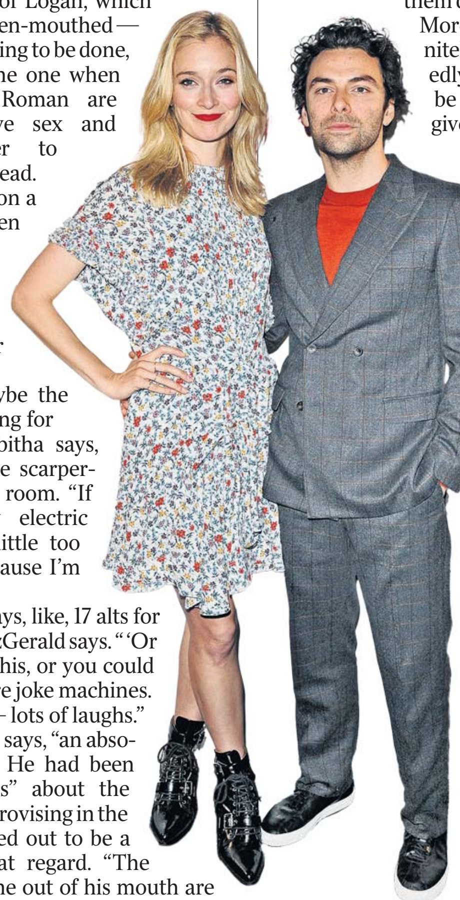
With her poise, wit and fine-boned intelligence FitzGerald has often been cast as the foil to higher-profile men. As well as Tabitha you may know her as the wife of Michael Sheen’s sex academic in *Masters of Sex* or as Aidan “Poldark” Turner’s wife in, erm, real life. You could see her role in *The Crucible* as a continuation of that trend. Elizabeth Proctor, whom she plays in Lyndsey Turner’s production — about to transfer to the Gielgud Theatre with a rejigged cast after a garlanded run at the National — is the dutiful spouse of John Proctor (Brian Gleeson), the farmer at the centre of Salem’s witch-hunting craze.

The big old white man plays, like The Crucible, have to be told in a new way

But FitzGerald’s Elizabeth will be a lot more than that. The women in the play “feel really different than I’ve seen them done before”, she says.

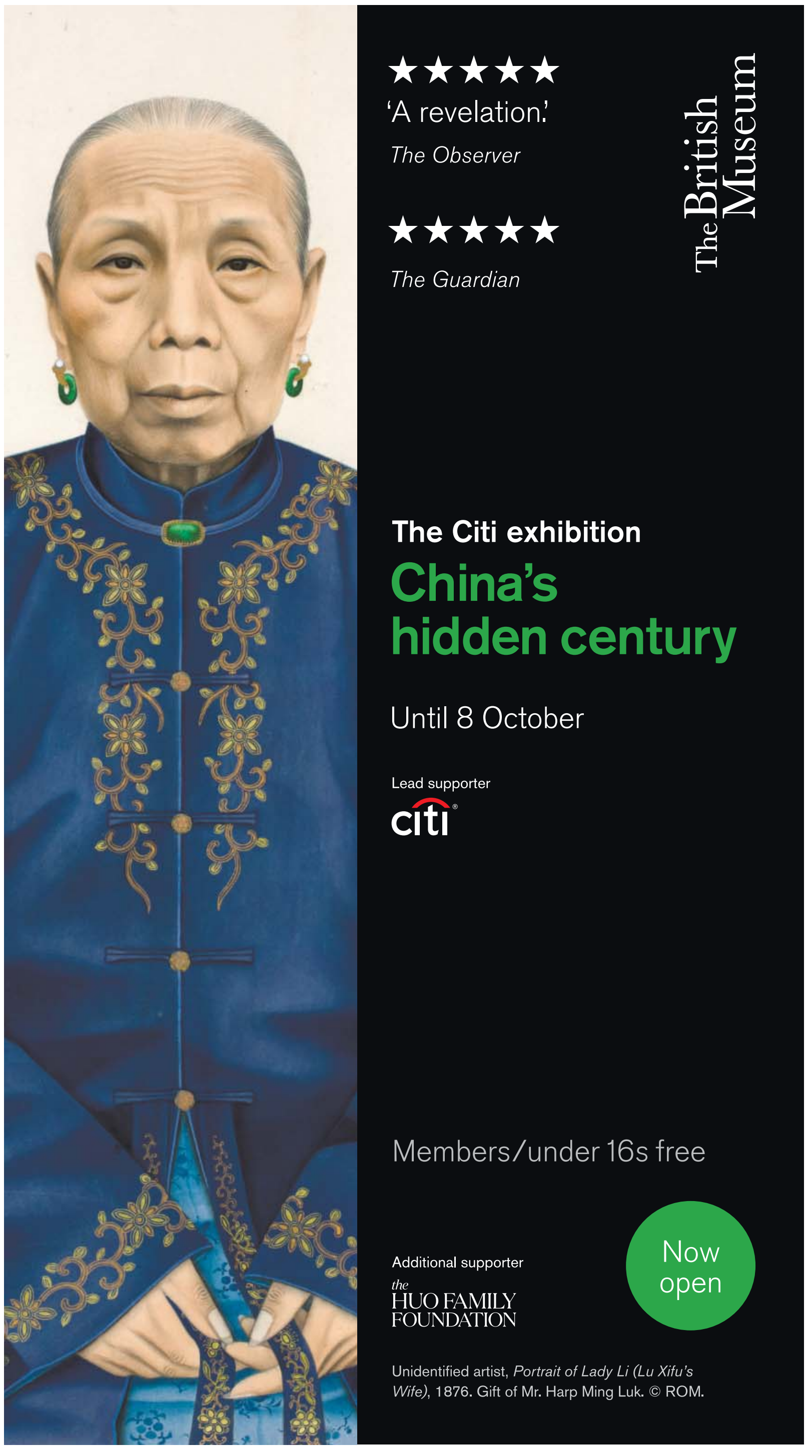
More nuanced? “Definitely. Human and, blessedly, they’re allowed to be all things. The — forgive me — big old white man plays, they have to be told in a new way.”

More telling perhaps than the dynamic between the Proctors is the one between Elizabeth and Abigail Williams, the teenager with whom John had an affair. Elizabeth has traditionally been seen as the wholesome, middle-aged yin to the fiery, adolescent yang of Abigail, played in this transfer by the rising Australian star Milly Alcock. Abigail and friends curse Elizabeth in the quasi pagan ceremony at the beginning, and later accuse her of witchcraft. In earlier pro-





Caitlin FitzGerald and, left, with her husband, the actor Aidan Turner



COVER: GEORGE PIMENTEL/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES. BELOW: ERIC CHARBONNEAU/INVISION/AP



HBO VIA ALAMY; MICHAEL DESMOND/SHOWTIME





From top: with Kieran Culkin in Succession; with Michael Sheen in Masters of Sex. Below: The Crucible



ductions, FitzGerald says, "it always felt very much to me like Abigail was the whore and Elizabeth was the Madonna".

That's not how her Elizabeth will be, though. "We've been talking a lot about Arthur Miller, the guilt he may have been living with in terms of his affair with Marilyn Monroe, and how bad writers would have written Elizabeth [perhaps to mirror Miller's first wife, Mary] as prim and prissy, a frigid ice queen. But he actually writes her to me as a sympathetic character. I was really excited by her anger."

Alcock, 23, who stole the show as Rhaenyra Targaryen in *House of the Dragon*, will be "amazing" as Abigail, FitzGerald thinks. "I'm so impressed by her and the whole tribe of young people in this play. They're so much more self-possessed than I was at 23. They're making them different these days." Speaking during a break in rehearsals, FitzGerald is wearing a striped jumper, jeans and an expression of alert exhaustion. "It's a little overwhelming," she says. "It's a big old play and we don't have a ton of time." They are halfway through a terrifyingly short four-week rehearsal period here before opening next month.

At least it's local for FitzGerald — she and Turner live in London with their one-year-old baby, whose sex and name they haven't revealed, and an ebullient Norfolk terrier called Charlie. Turner and FitzGerald got married in a secret ceremony in Italy in 2020 after meeting on the American film *The Man Who Killed Hitler and Then the Bigfoot*. How long did it take for them to get together? "It was pretty quick," Fitzgerald says with a smile. Has she ever been abused by jealous *Poldark* fans? "There was a bit at the beginning, but I'm not on any social media. I don't make myself available to it any more. Occasionally someone comes to the house, which is a bit of a drag."

FitzGerald has asked that we don't dwell on her personal life, partly because she's private and partly, I assume, because she doesn't want the interview to be swamped by talk of abs and scythes. Fair enough. She raves, though, about London. "I have always wanted to live here." When she was 15 she saw Simon Russell Beale in Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist* at the National, and her drama degree at the prestigious Tisch School of the Arts in New York included a semester at Rada. "So, getting to flash my National Theatre badge here . . . this business is crushingly awful sometimes, but there are also moments of such gratitude and excitement."

Doing *The Crucible* now is "exceedingly timely", she agrees — we don't need to labour its topicality in an era of fake news and digital witch-hunts. The play has a habit of being topical, whether tapping into McCarthyism, terrorism or other fears of the day. As Miller once wrote, "I can almost tell what the political situation in a country is when the play is suddenly a hit there — it is either a warning of tyranny on the way or a reminder of tyranny just past."

The National production was celebrated for its curtain of rain by the set designer Es Devlin, who has worked with Beyoncé and Kanye West. The rain will be back at the Gielgud, albeit in reduced form. "In the first production there was rain on three sides, and then some cast mopping up with towels," FitzGerald says. "Since we're only having rain at the front we don't have to do too much mopping." Can this stuff be distracting? "It can, but not here because we don't have a tremendous amount of props. It feels atmospheric rather than literal."

FitzGerald grew up in Maine, where her father, Des, was a corporate CEO and her mother, Pam, wrote *Knitting for Dummies*. She went to boarding school in Massachusetts, and one of her cousin's ancestors was tried for witchcraft in Salem, so she feels a connection with *The Crucible*.

"The New England roots are deep," she says. As are the Irish ones — her dad must have been chuffed she married a Dubliner. "Very," she says with a laugh.

It's an intriguing family. Her paternal grandfather, Desmond FitzGerald, was a senior officer in the CIA who is thought to have been involved in attempts to overthrow Fidel Castro. "I don't know how much of it is true — it's classified information," she says. "He died when my dad was 15 so I never met him. He was a spy, so it was a pretty closed household, I guess, information-wise."

Her English-born actress grandmother sounds just as fascinating.

"She went to , dropped out to make movies at Pinewood and was about to have her West End debut when the war broke out. She became a nurse in an airfield. I think she was on the last boat out of England before they closed the sea link because of the U-boats, and made her way to America alone."

The family tendrils stretch a long way. When FitzGerald auditioned for Whit Stillman's 2011 film *Damsels in Distress* "the first thing Whit said to me was: 'Your dad bullied me in elementary school.'" She still got the role. That came two years after her big break, starring opposite Meryl Streep in the rom-com *It's Complicated*. Its director, Nancy Meyers, is famous for doing lots of takes.

"Upwards of 50. So I got to watch Meryl Streep do 50 takes — it was the best acting school ever." That didn't stop FitzGerald freaking out when she got stuck on a scene. "I was, like, 'I've made a terrible mistake. How much trouble will I be in if I just leave?' But I came back the next day and it was fine."

Her next project is another film, *Lost on a Mountain in Maine*, the true story of a 12-year-old boy, Donn Fendler, who went hiking with his family in 1939 up Mount Katahdin, the tallest peak in the state. "He gets lost for nine days, they assume he's dead, but he walks 100 miles and emerges alive." Our time's up — *The Crucible* is calling. "It's gonna be an epic one," FitzGerald says. "Just a light-hearted comedy romp." And before that, a glorious return as Roman's saviour?

***The Crucible* is at the Gielgud Theatre, London W1, from Jun 7 to Sep 2**

my culture fix

The playwright lets us into his cultural life

Neil LaBute



My favourite author or book
I always come back to F Scott Fitzgerald and *The Great Gatsby* for the pure pleasure of the clean prose, the crisp characterisations and a story that sweeps me up and sends me back into the past.

The book I'm reading
A classic but nearly forgotten English crime novel called *The Widow of Bath*, by Margot Bennett, and *The Trackers*, the newest novel by Charles Frazier of *Cold Mountain* fame. I love keeping two books on my nightstand and reading them in tandem so that I can escape into various worlds at will.

The box set that I'm hooked on
A set of DVDs of Eric Rohmer's films, *Tales of the Four Seasons*. I love almost every film this great writer-director made, but these four later works are a real pleasure to sit through again.

The book I wish I had written
A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry or *Fences* by August Wilson, mostly because they are both terrific stage plays, but also so that people would stop saying that "you should write what you know" or that it's impossible for authors to write successfully in other voices. I want to write about anything or anyone that interests me, so having created one or both of those modern classics would help to reinforce the way that most people don't know what they're talking about when it comes to the creative process. At its best, writing is a mystery — even to the writer — and that's exactly how it should be.

The poem/song that saved me
I can't say that I've been saved by a poem or by a song, but the song cycle that makes up Frank Sinatra's *In the Wee Small Hours* has been played more times than any other music on my computer and that says something. There has never been another voice as clean and pure and singular as Mr Sinatra's.

MGM/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK



Ann-Margret and Elvis Presley in Viva Las Vegas. Below: An American in Paris; the Mona Lisa vandalised in 2022



My favourite film
Decision to Leave by Park Chan-wook. It's a quiet, delicate masterpiece with deeply dark sensibilities that also manages to rip your heart out with its passion and precision.

My favourite play
Uncle Vanya by Anton Chekhov. It says so much about life and love and family and climate change and every other life question that's worth talking about and it does it with grace and humour and heartache in equal measure.

My favourite TV series
The Prisoner. It was so brilliant and ahead of the creative curve that it could barely sustain itself for a single season, but those 17 episodes made for some gloriously insane television.

My favourite piece of music
Imperial Bedroom by Elvis Costello and the Attractions. Every tune is clever, ambitious and toe-tappingly fun.

The last TV show that made me laugh
The Beatles: Get Back is one of the single most beautiful, moving, hilarious and heartwarming things I've ever had the pleasure of watching. It's easy to love the Beatles, but to watch them striving to capture some of the old magic in a draughty studio feels like sitting at the dinner table with parents who didn't really ask you to be there, but allow you to stay over for supper anyway.

The lyric I wish I'd written
Joni Mitchell's *Both Sides Now* flows like a poem and soothes like a whisper and it's a perfect blend of mood and sentiment and insight.

My guiltiest cultural pleasure
Any Elvis Presley movie from the 1960s, from the more serious ones like *Kid Galahad*, to his western *Charro!*, to the greatest, *Viva Las Vegas*. I love Elvis movies in a way that I don't love any other kind of film.

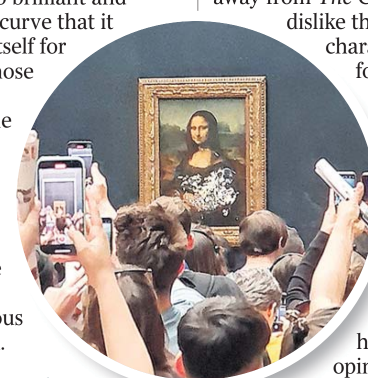
The music that cheers me up
The *An American in Paris Ballet* from the film score by George Gershwin. This symphonic poem, which closes out the 1951 film, is one of the most joyously sustained explosions of music I've heard.

If I could own one painting, it would be…
I don't want to own the *Mona Lisa*, but I'm willing to take it off the hands of the Louvre so that we could get that painting out from behind its slab of bulletproof glass. To see that beloved da Vinci stuffed in behind a thick wedge of bulletproof glass is to see an animal in captivity. I want to see that painting on a wall, out in the open, just once before I die. So if owning it is the only way to make that happen, then bring it on.

I'm having a fantasy dinner party, I'll invite these artists…
This would never happen: parties are one of my least favourite things. I don't drink, I don't want to get dressed up and I'd rather have a hot dog than beef wellington so why not save the money, forget the guest list, get the food I want to eat and kick back and watch a movie instead?

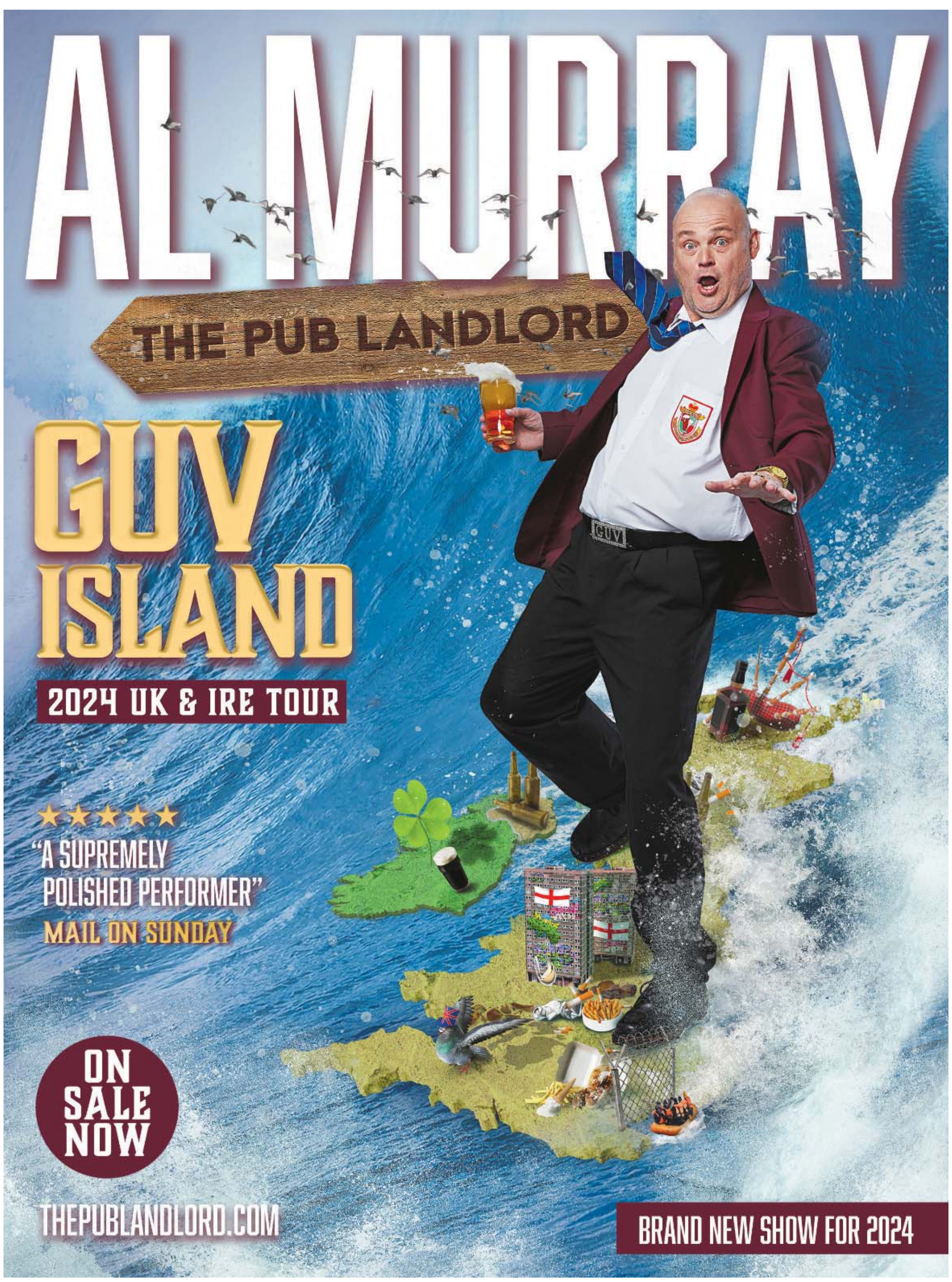
Overrated
Almost every book that I didn't like when younger or felt pushed to read through education has revealed itself to me, if I've gone back to it and given it another chance, to be better than I first estimated. *Silas Marner* or *The Scarlet Letter* would be examples. I now love both books.

Underrated
It's become fashionable, at least with younger people in the US, to take credit away from *The Catcher in the Rye* or to dislike the author or the lead character and I think those folks are mad or stupid or simply caught up in the thrill of saying shit on the internet. The same can be said of William Golding's masterpiece *Lord of the Flies* and I think this is utter madness and complete bullshit, but hey, that's just my opinion.



Have you ever walked out of a play at the interval and, if so, what was it?
Too many to mention here and not something I want to share. It's hard work putting a play together and it's just as hard to make a bad play as a good one, but, yes, I've walked out of a number of plays and films and that's my choice and right as a viewer. My job as a playwright or director is to keep those asses in those seats, but when I'm in the audience, I come to everything wanting it to be good and for me to enjoy myself, but it's the job of a play or film to keep me there.

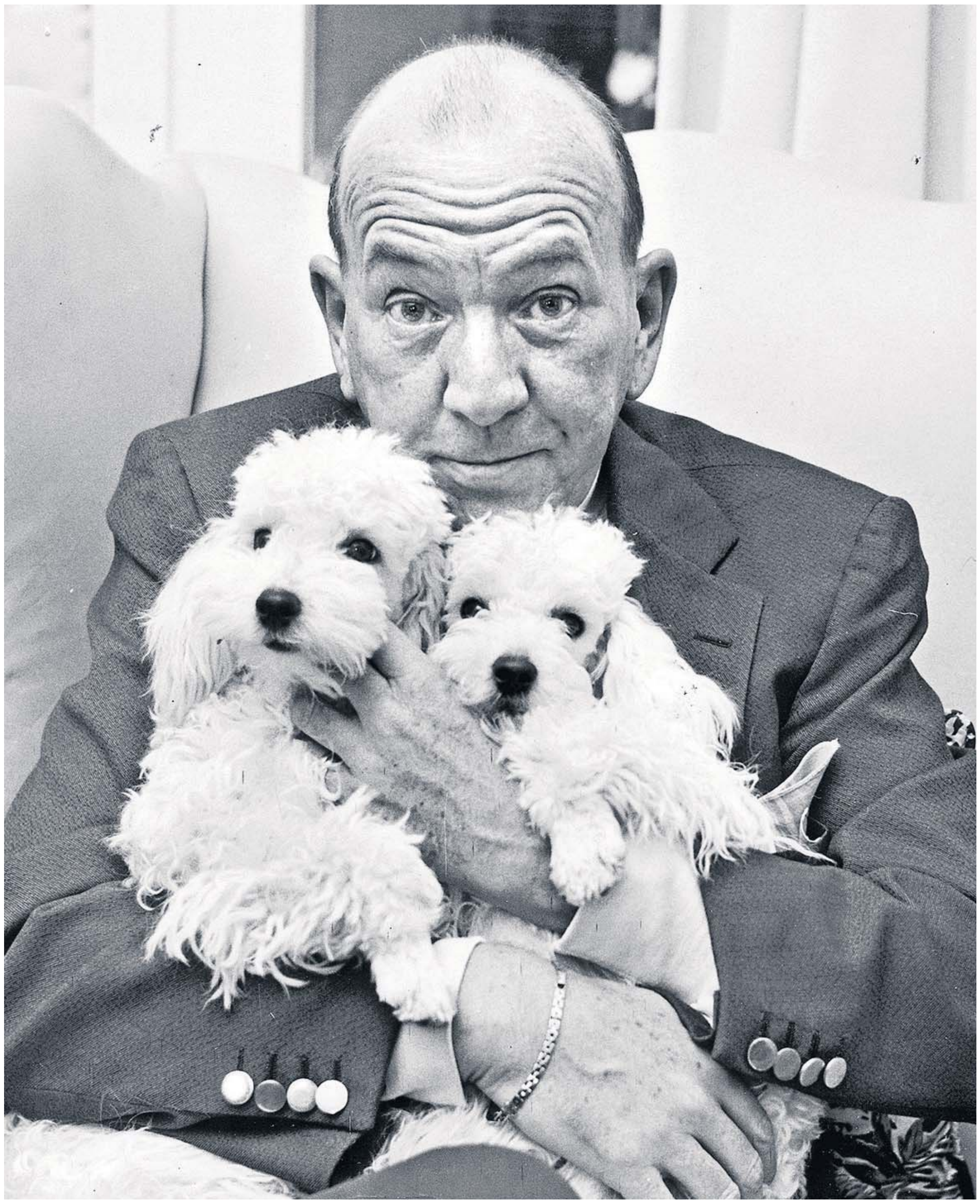
Neil LaBute's *The Shape of Things* is at the Park Theatre, London N4 (parktheatre.co.uk), to July 1



film

Bons mots and brilliance: my Noël Coward

Alan Cumming, who narrates a documentary about the theatrical polymath, celebrates the genius of his frothy but fake public persona



EXPRESS/GETTY IMAGES

Noël Coward in 1960 and, left Alan Cumming



It was doing some of Noël Coward's short plays at drama school that exposed me to him — he hadn't been a huge figure to me before that. My real breakthrough came when I acted with Dominic West and Jennifer Ehle in his 1932 play *Design for Living* on Broadway in 2001. That was a very big thing for me. And that play is still ahead of its time in terms of what it was talking about. I guess you'd call it polyamory now. The idea that he wrote that when he did was fascinating to me.

Certainly he started out as more of an activist than we tend to think. It's Coward the light comedian that has won out in the public consciousness, the veneer of martinis and bons mots. But underneath that there were some beautiful songs that are much more telling of his character — and those great early plays.

In between *Design for Living* and Barnaby Thompson getting in touch to ask me to narrate his new documentary film *Mad About the Boy*, I had read many books about Coward and sung a few of his songs on stage. I found I loved the work, but was really taken by the way he came in and out of favour and fashion as the decades went on. And also how he was a man with a secret.

To some extent that's about his sexuality. Yet there is the character of Nicky Lancaster in his breakthrough play *The Vortex* (1924) and the threeway of *Design for Living*. At that stage in his career in particular he would challenge things, push boundaries and upset depictions of relationships or sexuality. And that was at the time of the lord chamberlain censoring theatre.

You didn't have to be Sherlock Holmes to work out that he was a gay man. It was in his work and his appearance. Even if he couldn't be open to the public about it: that wasn't an option. The bigger secret was his class. You could say he was a class traitor — he didn't want to admit where he was from [a lower-middle-class background in south London]. Again, he was a victim of his time, of a rigid English class system where you can't leave your bracket.

For Coward to be the artist he wanted to be and to have the life he wanted to have, he had to invent this kind of aristocratic persona. I suppose we've all done that in some way. We're all in a state of transition, from where we were born to where we end up. We go down or we go up. Still, he was ashamed of where he came from and went to great lengths to hide it. He radically changed his place in the world. In those days before social media, before documentary series, it was easier to keep up a façade in this way. People weren't encouraged to be authentic. They were encouraged to invent a persona and stick to it. He certainly did that.

And a persona can be misleading. When I did *Design for Living* I had just come off the back of a success on Broadway, playing the emcee in *Cabaret*. I was seen as sexually free or ambivalent, a pansexual sprite. The only thing we added was that Dominic and I had a kiss at the end of the second act.

Yet because it was me and because I brought a lot of unuseful baggage to that production at the time, people thought we had changed it and sort of formed it around me and my "brand". We hadn't done anything. We just added a kiss. So I really admired how Coward had managed to put his message out in the Twenties. History didn't really treat Coward that kindly for a while. With the arrival of the Angry Young Men in playwriting in the Fifties he became an object of derision. He was probably overexposed: the plays are easy to do, they don't have huge casts, they were done by a lot of rep theatres and they were taken as a safe option.

Yet he got his reputation back. He ended up doing cabaret in Las Vegas, hugely successfully. His old plays started to reappear in London.

There is a story about a young actress in the Sixties who went for lunch with Coward and made the mistake of not complimenting him. After the meal, he said: "You know my dear I haven't heard you say a single word about my work." She said: "Oh no, Mr Coward, I'm a huge fan, it's such an honour to work with you." He said: "My dear, everybody needs jam." And as funny and dopey or camp as that seems, it's true.

> **He was a victim of his time, of a rigid English class system where you can't leave your bracket**

So, when we did *Design for Living*, I gave everyone jars of jam for opening night. And on the jars was written the acronym SNET, which Jennifer Ehle had got from [the actress and director] Maria Aitken when she spoke to her about how to play Coward. SNET stands for Style, Naturalism, Energy and Turning on a sixpence. It unlocked Coward for me.

Style: definitely. Naturalism: well, it's not really naturalism, it's a heightened reality, but… Energy: of course. And you have to be able to make it erudite and snappy, but be able to change the mood in a moment, turn it on a sixpence. It was only with SNET that I finally grasped what my teachers had been trying to teach me at drama school about Coward. You have to find the music in it. At the time we were a ragtag bunch of young Scottish actors wanting to be doing more contemporary things, not be coerced into using English accents in drawing rooms. But we learnt to enjoy doing this weird little dance with these characters who are not real people, but who you feel for all the same.

And it's the same with the range of his songs. Some of them are really clever. You can't possibly understand all the gags when you first hear one. And then there are beautiful, soulful ones about yearning and longing and loss as well. I love singing *If Love Were All*, for example. So the range of songs is sort of an elongation of SNET.

As a singer, Coward is one of those people who is so brilliant and fast; his diction is incredible. I've never sung any of his quick songs. I think it's a skill, but it's not something that I want to be able to do. I only sing the mournful ones. I admire that facility from afar. It's just not for me.

That was Coward. And in a way it goes back to this persona he created, masking the true self. He dazzles with his wit and genius and brilliance. You're not always getting the true thing. Once in a while you do. In a way, it left him as this brilliant puppet in the end, because he didn't know who he was. He invented this character so well, he couldn't get away from it.

And, in a way, who cares? The documentary is all about that, of course, but his legacy is some incredible pieces of writing, incredible prewar explorations of social mores and sexuality that no other British playwright was doing. He was, and remains, utterly fascinating.

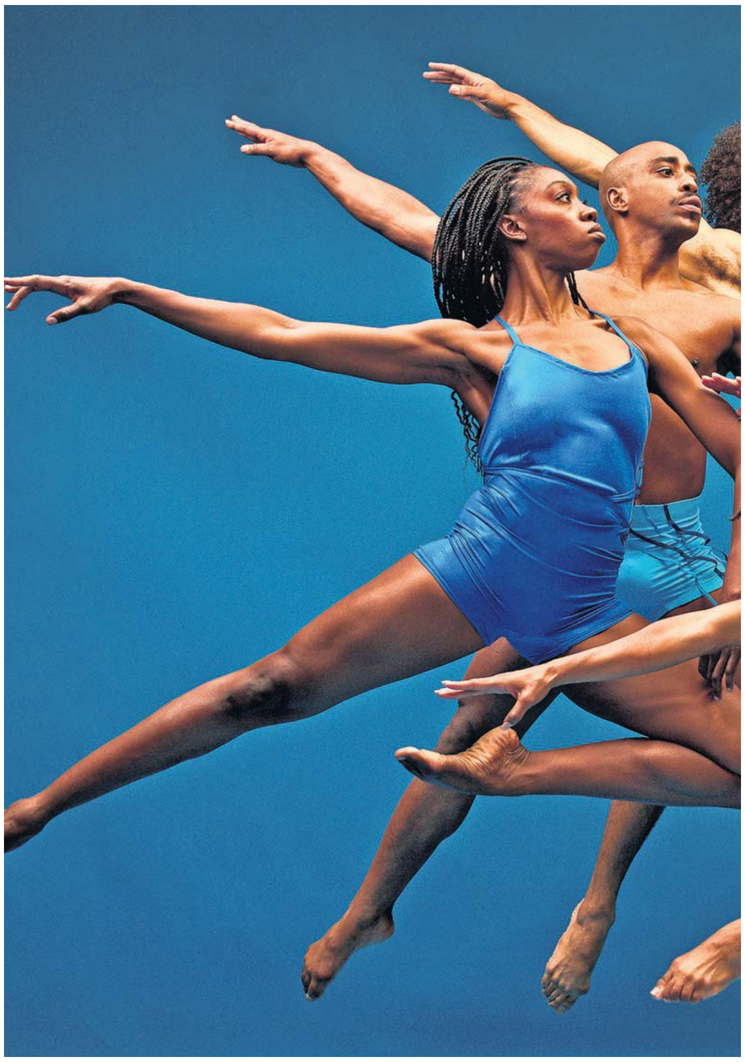
As told to Dominic Maxwell

***Mad About the Boy — The Noël Coward Story* is in cinemas nationally on June 1 with a Q&A with Barnaby Thompson, then on general release from June 2, altitude.film**

edinburgh

Stretch yourself! The critics' guide

From Alvin Ailey's dancers to Grayson Perry's smash hits and the return of Gustavo Dudamel — there's something for everyone



Theatre

The Grand Old Opera House Hotel
With her karaoke-fuelled Jane Austen parody *Pride and Prejudice* (*Sort Of)* still pulling in audiences on a national tour, the irrepressible Isobel McArthur unveils a comedy set in a hotel that used to play host to the great tenors and sopranos of yesteryear. A newcomer to the staff hears tales of singing ghosts and discovers that another colleague possesses a beautiful voice.
Traverse (traverse.co.uk), Jul 27-Aug 27

The Ballad of Truman Capote
The author Andrew O'Hagan turns his attention to the American writer and gadfly who, nearly 40 years after his death, is remembered as much for his socialising as his writing. O'Hagan's one-man memory play — which he also directs — is set in 1966 as Capote, at the height of his post-*In Cold Blood* fame, makes preparations for his black and white masquerade ball at the Plaza Hotel. Will it be his finest moment?
The Space (edfringe.com), Aug 4-26

Tony! [The Tony Blair Rock Opera]
Harry Hill and Steve Brown's touring musical may be a bad-taste hatchet job, but it's outrageously witty too, charting the New Labour saviour's journey from Oxford to 10 Downing Street. The script is full of characteristic Hill zaniness and Brown's songs are exceptionally well crafted. It's a show with all the wild energy of a typical Fringe effort, but with a lot more polish.
Pleasance at EICC (pleasance.co.uk), Aug 2-27

Food
Feel free to raise your glass. This immersive dinner party piece by the absurdist American writer and clown Geoff Sobelle invites an audience to sit round a table as he rummages through a series of meditations and skits devoted to eating as a ritual.
The Studio (eif.co.uk), Aug 3-27

England & Son
Mark Thomas has built a reputation as one of the comedy circuit's most politically committed performers, creating shows-cum-lectures on every socio-economic subject under the sun. Here, though, he's performing a script written by Ed Edwards, the author of a tub-thumping two-hander *The Political History of Smack and Crack*. Scenes from Thomas's childhood are intertwined with Edwards's experiences in prison.
Summerhall (summerhall.co.uk), Aug 2-27

Dusk
Theatre meets film in the UK premiere of a piece from Christiane Jatahy, the Rio de Janeiro-born director, based in France, who works with the Comédie Française. It's the story of a young Brazilian woman who goes into exile and finds refuge in a community of theatre artists who are staging an adaptation of Lars von Trier's movie *Dogville*.
Lyceum (eif.co.uk), Aug 5-8

Gaffer
It's not unheard of for footballers at top levels of the game to come out as gay, but in this monologue — written by the journalist Rob Crossan and performed by Chris Larner — we're introduced to a manager who is tackling his own trauma. Can he come to terms with his real sexual identity? And what will happen when his private life is exposed to the glare of publicity?
Underbelly Bristo Square, Dexter (underbellyedinburgh.co.uk), Aug 6-13

As Far as Impossible
We normally catch glimpses of humanitarian and aid workers in fleeting soundbites on the TV news. This work by Tiago Rodrigues, the director of the Avignon Festival, gives staff from the International Committee of the Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières much more room to reflect on their vocation. How easy is it to cope psychologically with scenes of extreme distress?
Lyceum (eif.co.uk), Aug 11-14



Tennessee Rising: The Dawn of Tennessee Williams
Thanks in part to the latest West End revival of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Tennessee Williams is still a hot ticket. Jacob Storms's solo play — originally directed by Alan Cumming — homes in on the troubled writer's early years, unpicking the tangle of influences and demons that led to the creation of plays that defined an era.
Assembly Rooms (assembly-festival.com), Aug 3-27

Comedy

Fiona Allen: On the Run
A stand-up newcomer and comedy veteran, Allen starred in and co-wrote the female-led sketch show *Smack the Pony* alongside Sally Phillips and Doon Mackichan. She arrives at the stage to talk about family, acting and coming late to stand-up as she tried to find a passion of her own alongside acting work and motherhood.
Pleasance Courtyard (pleasance.co.uk), Aug 2-20

Gyles Brandreth Can't Stop Talking!
Yes, the Fringe is a place for unexpected finds. Still, it's good to see that more seasoned funny people who can definitely do the job are also in town (see also Mark Watson at the Pleasance, Simon Evans and Ed Byrne at the Assembly Rooms, John Robins at Just the Tonic, Paul Sinha, Bridget Christie and Stewart Lee at the Stand's New Town Theatre). Here, the raconteur, author, broadcaster etc tries to figure out why he has been "babbling since he was a baby".
Assembly George Square (assembly-festival.com), Aug 2-27, then touring Sep 1-Oct 22

Janine Harouni: Man'oushe
The London-based American, sometimes of the sketch trio Muriel, made the ideal solo Fringe debut in 2019 with her show about her Trump-voting dad from Long Island. At last we get the (as they say in America) sophomore show, in which she explores her Arab roots, her pregnancy and the quirks of DNA tests. Expect something highly personal yet deft, quick, jokey and poised too.
Pleasance Courtyard (pleasance.co.uk), Aug 2-25

Kieran Hodgson: Big in Scotland
After making his name with a string of award-nominated one-man shows, plus some stooge work in Nick Mohammed's Mr Swallow shows, Hodgson has of late been busy with screen work. The Yorkshireman celebrates moving to Glasgow in 2020 with an outsider's guide to fitting into a new home.
Pleasance Courtyard (pleasance.co.uk), Aug 2-27, then touring Sep 11-Apr 6 (berksnest.com/Kieran)

Jazz Emu: You Shouldn't Have
A welcome reprise for one of the smartest, silliest shows of 2022. Emu (real name Archie Henderson) strings together some of his fabulously funny electrofunk parodies while supposedly racing against time to save his name after an unfortunate incident at an arena gig in Helsinki. Plus, six late-night full-band standing gigs (Aug 17-26) at the Assembly George Square Studios.
Pleasance Courtyard (pleasance.co.uk), Aug 17-27

Six Chick Flicks… Or a Legally Blonde Pretty Woman Dirty Danced on the Beaches While Writing a Notebook on the Titanic
Since the title doesn't leave us much room for further explanation, it's a good job little is needed. Recently seen off-Broadway, this is a two-person parody cum deconstruction of the tropes of the genre by the performers Kerry Ipema and KK Apple.
Underbelly Bristo Square, Ermintrude (underbellyedinburgh.co.uk), Aug 2-28

Luisa Omielan
Omielan says she is "going back to basics" a decade after making her name at the Fringe. There is a stand-up show, *Bitter*, with £10 tickets. Or see her on the Free Fringe where you pay what you think her "silly, playful, ridiculous" show *God Is a Woman The Musical* is worth. It's good to have her back.
***Bitter*, Monkey Barrel (monkeybarrel-comedy.com), Aug 3-27; *God Is a Woman The Musical* at Laughing Horse Free Fringe @ The Counting House (edfringe.com), Aug 3-27**

The Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre. Below: Fiona Allen. Left: Geoff Sobelle. Top right: Keg de Souza's Green Hell; Right: Gustavo Dudamel



Frank Skinner: 30 Years of Dirt
It's nice to see the old-timer back at the Fringe and if that sounds ageist, don't imagine Skinner won't be cracking gags about being 66 and still plying his craft while being the father of an 11-year-old.
Assembly George Square (assembly-festival.com), Aug 3-27

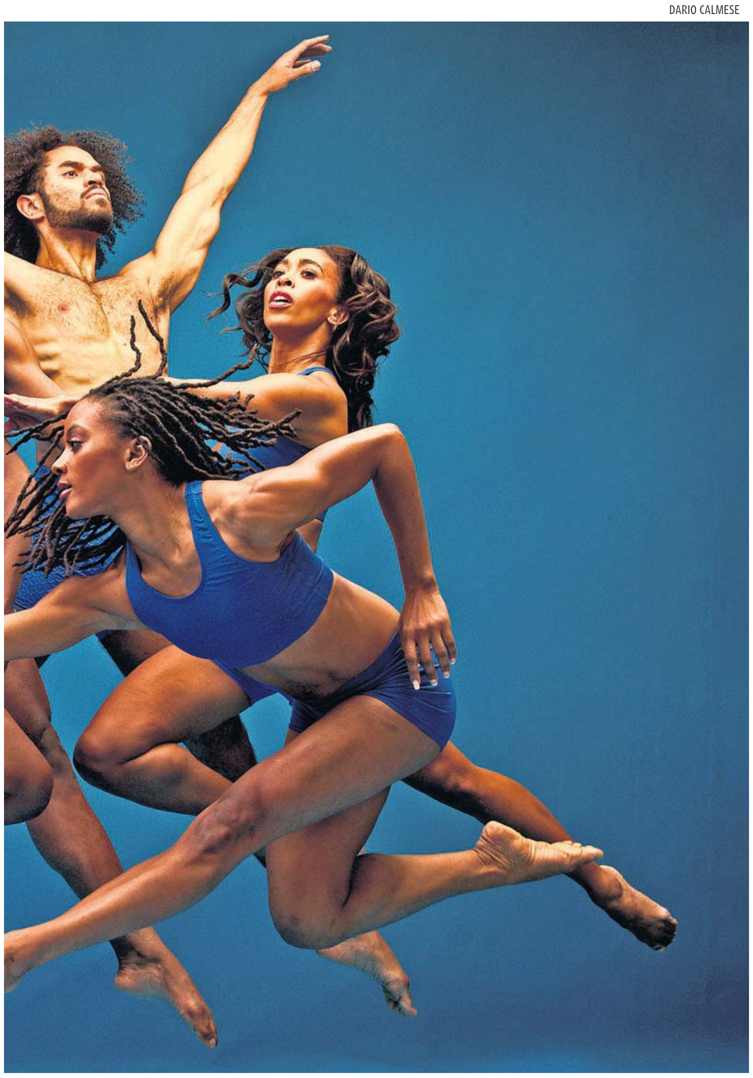
Emmanuel Sonubi: Curriculum Vitae
The former nightclub bouncer was nominated for best newcomer in the Edinburgh Comedy Awards last year for a thoroughly likeable debut that he has since toured. If Sonubi can raise the heat just a notch with this year's material he could well be on his way to making it big.
Underbelly Bristo Square, Dairy Room (underbellyedinburgh.co.uk), Aug 2-28

Classical

Buddha Passion
Tan Dun's flamboyant oratorio is the choice for the International Festival's opening concert, fusing Buddhist philosophy and myth with music that draws on eastern and western classical traditions (notably, here, the Passions of JS Bach).

to this year's fringe and festival

DARIO CALMESE



The composer conducts the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus.
Usher Hall (eif.co.uk), Aug 5

Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra
One of four leading orchestras in residence at the International Festival this year (the Budapest Festival, Oslo Philharmonic and London Symphony are the others), the Venezuelans play their first British concerts since 2016. They are also reunited with the conductor Gustavo Dudamel, who conducts Mahler's First Symphony. Rafael Payare conducts Beethoven's Ninth, and there's plenty of music from the Americas as well.
Usher Hall and the Hub (eif.co.uk), Aug 21-26

The Magic Flute
Only a concert performance of Mozart's opera, but one promising surprises and a lot of quality. For a start, there's a newly commissioned narration from the veteran director David Pountney, to be read by the inspiring German bass-baritone Thomas Quasthoff, plus a top-notch cast.
Usher Hall (eif.co.uk), Aug 12

The Threepenny Opera
Nothing the Australian director Barrie Kosky stages is dull, and this sardonic masterpiece by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill should be right up his *strasse*. Written in Berlin in 1928, it updates a work 200 years older — John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera* — as a satire on capitalism and venality. It's performed in Edinburgh by the company Brecht founded, the Berliner Ensemble.
Festival Theatre (eif.co.uk), Aug 18-20

Chosen by Clive Davis, Dominic Maxwell, Richard Morrison, Debra Craine, Will Hodgkinson, Laura Freeman and Alice Jones

Edinburgh International Festival runs from Aug 4 to 27
eif.co.uk

Edinburgh Fringe runs from Aug 4 to 28
edfringe.com

Sounds of St Cecilia's
As part of the Fringe festival, Scotland's oldest purpose-built concert hall hosts a series of intriguing mid-afternoon chamber concerts, many of them played on instruments drawn from its magnificent 500-strong collection.
St Cecilia's Concert Hall (stcecilias.ed.ac.uk), Aug 4-25

Phaedra/Minotaur
The theatre director Deborah Warner and the choreographer Kim Brandstrup present a double dose of ancient Greek tragedy. *Phaedra* was Benjamin Britten's last vocal work, relating the Cretan princess's unbridled lust for her stepson Hippolytus. It's sung by Christine Rice. It's followed by *Minotaur*, which dramatises the story of how Phaedra's sister, Ariadne, helped her lover Theseus to escape from the mythical man-bull.
Lyceum (eif.co.uk), Aug 18-20

Tannhäuser
Tannhäuser, which is the only important Wagner opera not yet performed at the festival, gets a concert airing from the Scottish conductor Donald Runnicles and the massed forces of Deutsche Oper Berlin, where Runnicles has been the music director since 2007.
Usher Hall (eif.co.uk), Aug 25

Dance

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
The New York-based troupe brings two programmes to the International Festival, one of which showcases three pieces by its founder — a rare chance to see what made Alvin Ailey so special.
Festival Theatre (eif.co.uk), Aug 23-25

The Rite of Spring
More than 30 dancers from 14 African countries unite in a breathtaking, elemental performance of Pina Bausch's self-flagellating *Rite of Spring*, which had its UK premiere at the International Festival in 1978. Here they perform their atavistic, sexually driven tribal sacrifice on 3,000kg of soil. *The Rite* is performed in a double bill with the poetic and highly emotional *common ground[s]*.
Playhouse (eif.co.uk), Aug 17-19



Kyiv City Ballet
With the decade-old company still in exile because of the war in Ukraine, Kyiv City Ballet brings a programme fittingly entitled *A Tribute to Peace*. It's a collection of excerpts from some favourite pieces in the company's repertoire, including 19th-century classics and more modern works. The itinerant dancers, of course, have no idea when they will be able to return to their homeland.
Assembly Hall (assemblyfestival.com), Aug 3-28

Visual art

Lindsey Mendick, SH*T FACED
A potter who doesn't do fragile vases. Mendick's new show promises a mash-up of *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and modern binge-drinking culture staged in the ballroom at the always-experimental Jupiter Artland sculpture park.
Jupiter Artland (jupiterartland.org), Jul 15-Oct 1

Beyond the Little Black Dress
When Coco Chanel designed her first little black dress in 1926, US Vogue hailed "the frock that all the world will wear". More than 60 little black numbers from Chanel, Dior, Jean Muir, Gareth Pugh, Simone Rocha and Comme des Garçons will be on display in this celebration of subversive simplicity.
National Museums of Scotland (nms.ac.uk), Jul 1-Oct 29

Scottish Women Artists: 250 Years of Challenging Perception
Here come the (tartan) girls. A celebration of trailblazing artistic firsts including Catherine Read, the first formally trained Scottish female artist of the 18th century; the Glasgow Girls, the first generation of Scottish women to be considered professional artists; and Elizabeth Blackadder, the first woman elevated to the Royal Academy and the Royal Scottish Academy.
Dovecot Studios (dovecotstudios.com), Jul 28-Jan 6

Grayson Perry: Smash Hits
Perry presents more than 80 pots, prints, sculptures and tapestries in the largest survey of his work yet. This is a chance to see the rarely exhibited *Walthamstow Tapestry*, which charts a life in brand names, and the magnificent, richly embellished, cast-iron ship *Tomb of the Unknown Craftsman*.
Royal Scottish Academy (nationalgalleries.org), Jul 22-Nov 12

Keg de Souza: Shipping Roots
The Australian artist Keg de Souza is the wild card — wildflower? — in the programme. After a year's residency at the Royal Botanic Garden, she considers the trade in plants between the UK, India and Australia with a series of installations that combine art and nature.
Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh (rbge.org.uk), to Aug 27

Pop

Lady Blackbird
After years of near misses, the American singer Marley "Lady Blackbird" Munroe is now a bona fide star and a captivatingly glamorous stage presence, whose two decades of thwarted dreams have added to the weight of her delivery.
Festival Theatre (eif.co.uk), Aug 12

Lankum
A background in extreme metal helped this Dublin four-piece to mine the dark heart of traditional folk music. Putting resonating harmonies against uillean pipes, tin whistles and harmoniums, the result is stark but mesmerising, an ambient, almost spiritual interpretation of ancient ballads passed down through the generations.
Queen's Hall (eif.co.uk), Aug 17



Alison Goldfrapp
Finding the sweet spot between the escapism and melancholy of the dancefloor, Alison Goldfrapp evokes the ghost of late-Seventies Donna Summer while making a few digs at modern culture along the way. *Love Invention*, the title track from her new album, is a delightful take-down of Gwyneth Paltrow-led wellness culture.
Playhouse (eif.co.uk), Aug 25

John Cale
At 81 Cale shows no sign of going quietly into the night; his 2023 album *Mercy* took on everything from global warming to the Trump legacy while continuing his mission to marry the immediacy of rock with the sophistication of classical music.
Festival Theatre (eif.co.uk), Aug 26

Children

Mog the Forgetful Cat
The first stage adaptation of Judith Kerr's tale of the scatterbrained, egg-loving family pet stops off for a month at the Fringe as part of a UK tour that also takes in the Old Vic in London. For ages 3+.
McEwan Hall (underbelly-edinburgh.co.uk), Aug 3-15, 17-20, 24-27

The Lost Lending Library
Playing as part of the Edinburgh International Festival, Punchdrunk's family show is an immersive experience (of course) set in a magical travelling library, 314 storeys high with 78 departments. Children are guided behind a bookcase and into a secret and delightfully detailed world of books and typewriters, storytelling and shadow puppets. For ages 6-11.
Church Hill Theatre (eif.co.uk), Aug 3-27

Roger McGough's Money-Go-Round
Mr Toad presides over this beginner's guide to the mysteries of economics. The poet's mischievous *Wind in the Willows*-inspired tale of money and how we spend it has been made into a musical featuring sinister weasels, homemade props and boisterous songs. For ages 5+.
Assembly Rooms (assembly-festival.com), Aug 3-21



Golden hour: clockwise from left, Dominic Harris with his work 'Limitless'; 'Dioramas of the Divine – Atlas'; centrepiece 'Feeding Consciousness'; 'Immersive Experience: Endurance'







REALITY BYTES

Halcyon Gallery has a mesmerising show to launch its London flagship. Harnessing the power of AI, Feeding Consciousness by digital artist Dominic Harris is an invitation to see and take part

Artists have always strived to capture the zeitgeist, but the spirit of our own age is growing more elusive by the day. It takes an artist who works with new tech to understand the freedoms offered and challenges posed by it, to adequately reflect the turbulence of modern times.

Halcyon Gallery is championing just such an artist with the inaugural exhibition at its new West End site. In *Feeding Consciousness*, Dominic Harris has created a show that speaks to the moment, wrestling with such thorny issues as groupthink and the climate crisis.

But he is a force for affirmation, not negativity. This digital artist mixes code and craftsmanship to produce works that viewers can physically engage with – harnessing AI and data sets to stupendous and uplifting effect.

London-born Harris, 46, set up his own studio in 2007. "The plan was to produce work that was responsive, that communicated something bigger than I thought a static object might be able to," Harris says.

"For the first ten years of having a studio, the majority of my commissions were in the commercial realm. I created interactive installations for the likes of McLaren and Rolls-Royce."

TOWER RECORD

Feeding Consciousness draws on his practice as a qualified architect and came out of his desire to create a unique sculptural installation. Its interactivity allows it to be expansive and intimate at the same time, making the viewer feel part of some elaborate magic trick.

The show is named after its centrepiece, a ten-foot digital sculpture inspired by the Tower of Babel. The top five trending subjects on Google's UK search engine – the topics gripping our collective psyche – are splashed across the tower's 180 LCD screens.

Immersion is the watchword for the installations *Endurance*, *Elements* and *Dioramas of the Divine*.

The first, which places the viewer in a hyperreal Antarctic-esque landscape, allows them to influence their environment, and shows the cost of their decisions. While a conventional virtual reality experience requires people to don headsets, *Endurance* – using sensors and code – needs no apparatus.

BUTTERFLY EFFECT

A site-specific immersive experience, *Elements* sees Harris return to a favourite motif, butterflies. Here they serve to represent the five elements that make up the universe – wood, earth, water, fire and metal – and whose relationship with one another is given both physical and sonic expression.

Dioramas of the Divine breathes life into various figures from Greek mythology, making them relatable. They feel, just as we do, the weight of their responsibilities and are imbued with human characteristics.

Not at all prescriptive, these are works that hold up a mirror to our lives, powered by optimism and understanding rather than fear. "For me, what makes an artwork is not just what you see, but how you feel, how you respond," says Harris. "The viewer is more than just a viewer – they are a performer, a collaborator.

"And the tech, although it is an art form in its own right, is not the point; it's a palette, an enabler. The emotional connection is everything."

> "The tech is a palette. The emotional connection is everything

Although Halcyon is a private gallery with a 40-year history of presenting the likes of Degas, Matisse, Warhol, Mitch Griffiths and Bob Dylan, there's no need to dress up or make an appointment to see this exhibition. Dedicated to the democratisation of fine art, the Halcyon team welcome all and are only too happy to share their appreciation of Harris's mesmerising talent.

Feeding Consciousness is showing at Halcyon Gallery, 148 New Bond St, until August 13

HALCYON GALLERY

film

VICTOR BOYKO/GETTY IMAGES FOR AIR MAIL LLC



Lily-Rose Depp at the film festival

A Cannes of two Depps

This year's festival featured Lily-Rose and Johnny, a finger-wagging Tom Hanks and many Oscar-worthy movies, reports Ed Potton

It has been a Cannes of drama, aggro and unsettling moments — and that's before we even got into the cinema. Last week Thierry Frémaux, the strutting boss of the festival, was told off by police for riding his electric bicycle on the pavement before being pushed by a police officer, then held back from retaliating by onlookers. He ain't worth it, Thierry! Days later protesters against President Macron's pension reforms cut off the gas supply around the Palais de Festivals, leaving several restaurants without heat and robbing the great and the good of their steaks and lobsters. When even Tom Hanks is wagging his finger at somebody, *below*, as he appeared to on the red carpet before the premiere of Wes Anderson's *Asteroid City*, you know there's something in the air.

The mood hasn't been lighter in many of the screen offerings, with coercion, exploitation and gruesome sex scenes the order of the day. Ticking off all three was the lurid HBO series *The Idol* (★★★), the first two episodes of which were premiered. Lily-Rose Depp is worryingly believable as Jocelyn, a barely clothed Britney Spears-like pop star who falls under the spell of a nightclub owner cum cult leader called Tedros Tedros, played by Abel Tesfaye, aka the music megastar the Weeknd.

It's been a Cannes of two Depps, Johnny opening the festival with his scenery-chewing Louis XV and his daughter, Lily-Rose, picking up the controversy baton. *The Idol*'s delights include Tedros half-asphyxiating Jocelyn under a hood and her being asked who she answers to and replying: "God." A one-liner for the ages. Jocelyn watches *Basic Instinct* and it feels like something that its director, Paul Verhoeven, could have made. It's destined for cult status, *Showgirls* for the TikTok era.

Then came a bulimic girl vomiting on a plate and eating the contents in *Club Zero* (★★★), a provocative if stiff satire on food and cults by the Austrian director Jessica Hausner, and Jude Law wearing a perfume reeking of "pus, blood, faecal matter and sweat" to get into the role of Henry VIII in *Firebrand.* Eau de pus — coming to a boutique near you. We were back to dodgy sex in *Last Summer* (★★★★) by Catherine Breillat, the French queen of unsettling erotica. It starts off with a porn-style scenario: a glamorous middle-aged woman (Léa Drucker) left alone with her teenage stepson (Samuel Kircher), who looks like a rock star and walks about with his shirt off. Panting, inadvisable trysts indeed ensue. It's more complicated than that, though. Not only is she married to the boy's father, she is also a lawyer who defends vulnerable children, and Breillat cleverly switches sympathies between the two leads.



Eliciting a different kind of discomfort is Jonathan Glazer's *The Zone of Interest* (★★★★★), the favourite for the Palme d'Or, according to bookies and festival-goers. The British director of *Sexy Beast* hasn't made a movie since *Under the Skin* ten years ago, and a bit of mystique won't harm his chances of winning. Glazer's extraordinary film focuses on the commandant of Auschwitz (Christian Friedel) and his young family, who live blithely in the shadow of the camp, which is heard but not seen. "We have everything we could ever want on our doorstep," the commandant's wife (Sandra Hüller) says without a hint of irony. It felt weird to celebrate a film about obliviousness to atrocity at a party on the beach with mini hamburgers and Campari spritzes. I'm sure Martin Amis, who wrote the novel that inspired the film and died on the day of its premiere, would have had something waspish to say about that.

One of the joys of Cannes remains pouring out of the theatre and into the bar to debate "the Loach", "the Kaurismaki" or "the Anderson". All of those distinctive directors have "made their film again", with varying degrees of success. Ken Loach's *The Old Oak* (★★) depicts tensions between locals and Syrian refugees in a run-down former mining village in Durham, a worthwhile subject that's derailed by proclamatory dialogue and pantomime acting, It's an unfitting farewell for one of the few people to win the Palme d'Or twice.

The Finnish auteur Aki Kaurismaki fares better with *Fallen Leaves* (★★★), a bitter then sweet tale of middle-aged deadbeats (Alma Poysti and Jussi Vatanen) looking for love and non-rubbish jobs. The poster of *Brief Encounter* in the background isn't subtle, but the layers of disappointment and gallows humour are. Wes Anderson, meanwhile, has made one of his weirdest and funniest films in *Asteroid City* (★★★★), which is set at a junior stargazer convention in a desert town in the American west and stars Scarlett Johansson, Jason Schwartzman, Margot Robbie, Tilda Swinton, Matt Dillon and Hanks, again in grumpy mode. There are departures from Anderson's previous movies — fantastical encounters and a surreality that sometimes feels more like David Lynch or Charlie Kaufman.

Things have been brightening up in the past few days. We've had *The Pot-au-Feu* (★★★★), a gastronomic romance between a pretentious 19th-century French gourmet (Benoît Magimel) and the cook (Juliette Binoche) who prepares his visionary menus. Tran Anh Hung's sensual film offers up some of the best screen nosh since *Eat Drink Man Woman.*

And who would have thought that the most uplifting film of the festival so far would be a week in the life of a Tokyo toilet cleaner? Directed by the German veteran Wim Wenders, *Perfect Days* (★★★★) stars Koji Yakusho (*Babel*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*) as Hirayama, a soulful sixtysomething who takes scrubbing public toilets very seriously. Japanese WCs are shrines compared with their average counterparts in Britain — had the film been set in Hackney, Hirayama would be a wreck. As it is, he radiates quiet contentment in this rhapsody in loo. A murky Cannes is having a sweet denouement and we still have the closing film to come — *Elemental*, the new one from Pixar. Cheer up, Mr Hanks.

Five most likely to win the Palme d'Or

The Zone of Interest
Jonathan Glazer, the director of *Sexy Beast*, returns with a brilliantly unsettling piece about the commandant of Auschwitz and his family living a dreamy life in the shadow of the death factory. Very loosely inspired by Martin Amis's novel of the same name.

Anatomy of a Fall
Sandra Hüller, who also plays the wife in *The Zone of Interest*, is a writer trying to prove that she did not kill her husband in this thriller by Justine Triet.

May December
Julianne Moore reunites with Todd Haynes, who directed her in *Safe* and *Far from Heaven*, playing a woman who had a headline-grabbing romance with one of her students and is now married to him.

The Pot-au-Feu
A culinary romance between a 19th-century "Napoleon of the culinary arts" (Benoît Magimel) and the cook (Juliette Binoche) who has been working for him for 20 years. Frenchness turned up to 11.



Asteroid City
Perhaps Wes Anderson's funniest and strangest film, with Scarlett Johansson, *above*, Jason Schwartzman, Tom Hanks, Tilda Swinton, Matt Dillon and many more trading zingers at a desert convention for junior stargazers.



books

Is Succession the heir to War and Peace? Nope, too many penis jokes

Book of the week

To solemn devotees, Succession compares to Shakespeare. But brilliant telly can't always rival literature. By James Marriott



'In the world of *Succession*," a writer at The New Yorker once opined, "pee is a symbol of power, and one can track the waning or surging of a character's authority by keeping a close eye on the state of his urethra."

You will have noticed that journalists don't write this way about *Emmerdale*. Even *The White Lotus* failed to inspire such high-flown analysis.

Succession is a rare instance of a prestige television show so prestigious that it is capable of provoking its fans to that most reckless and high-minded form of enthusiasm — literary criticism. To solemn devotees, *Succession* is art, its creator, Jesse Armstrong, is the heir to Shakespeare and the only appropriate response to these facts is to discuss the show in the laboured tone of an undergraduate dissertation.

The reverential approach is endorsed by the publication of *Succession*'s scripts in three enormous *War and Peace*-size volumes by Faber. Twenty quid each! One bristles at the presumption. Faber, after all, is the publisher of TS Eliot, Samuel Beckett, William Golding… Look, I love *Succession*. *Succession* and *Clarkson's Farm* are the only TV shows I watch. Still, there's something about 2,194 pages of majestically bound script that puts a man in a combative mood. Is *Succession* really the profound Tolstoyan work the folks at Faber seem to think it is? Let us take them on their own terms. *Succession* is great TV. But is it great literature?

The best criticism of *Succession* was made by the show's writers. It's in series two. Kendall Roy, the intense and troubled second son of the media magnate Logan, is trying to intimidate Stewy, his friend and business partner. He launches into one of the show's characteristic fusillades of extravagant verbal intimidation. "I will come to you at night with a f***ing razor blade and I will cut your…" he begins. A bored-looking Stewy blithely completes the threat: "…dick off, and then push it up your c*** until poo poo pops out of my nose hole. It doesn't matter. It doesn't mean anything."







Succession
The Complete Scripts, Seasons One, Two and Three

Faber, £20 each (Season Four is published in July)



Jesse Armstrong

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

Ostensibly it's a contemptuous judgment on the meaninglessness of the baroque profanities chucked around by the Roy family. "Logan is going to fire a million poisonous spiders down your dickie", "You pusillanimous piece of f***ing fool's gold", "That disingenuous little f***doll" and so on. The petulant flamboyance of the characters' insults is a signal of their impotence — they swear so virtuosically because there are no consequences to anything they say. They are thrashing about in a void. But (and here begins my job application for The New Yorker) might you not also go a bit meta and apply Stewy's comment to the show's writers? "It doesn't mean anything." Anyone can rattle off these glib childish insults. And indeed anyone does. In the show's weaker moments all the characters seem to be talking the same way.

Watching a chastened Kendall appearing on television publicly to recant his attempt to take over Waystar Royco, Stewy comments: "OK. Hello! Look who's come out to play. Cuckleberry Finn. Cuck of Cuck Hall. Look at him! Honking on his dad's dick so hard he's gonna suck his kidneys out through his cock pipe." Watching the same scene, Kendall's brother Roman says: "He just walked around the New York Stock Exchange with his severed dick in his hand asking where was good for free soup. He just ate the big dog dick. He sucked that pooch bone dry."

The comic register is basically identical. There is the phallic obsession (the most striking feature of reading *Succession*'s scripts is how frequently all the characters discuss one another's "pee-pees", "boners", "dicks", "dickies", "cocks" etc). There is also the "thinking on your feet" style of speech, in which a character will seem to cast about for a good line, lurching precariously through several bad jokes ("Cuckleberry Finn. Cuck of Cuck Hall") before hitting on a good one, as if by accident. This means that when the good joke eventually arrives it seems the product of serendipity rather than hours of sweat in the writers' room. Perhaps the cruellest thing the permanence of print does to *Succession* is to remove the forgiving illusion of spontaneity from the show's weaker jokes.

Succession-speak is the product of a world in which most of the protagonists are almost totally morally and financially uninhibited — the series' great comedic innovation. The Roys are extremely wealthy. They are extremely powerful. And they head a news organisation so crazy and amoral that there are almost no rules governing what counts as acceptable speech. To the average viewer who is likely to be a) relatively poor and b) circumscribed by the 21st century's inhibiting codes of politically correct language, this freedom gives a pleasurable comic shock.

Yet there is such a thing as too much freedom. On the page the relentless penis jokes can become exhausting. And comedy thrives on social restriction. It's why Armstrong's *Peep Show* is funnier (just) than *Succession* — its embattled, downwardly mobile characters are endlessly furtive, always haplessly trying to avoid telling the truth or saying what they really mean.

Tom has a high-flown tone: 'Ah the king of edible leaves. His Majesty, the spinach!'

The most entertaining characters in *Succession* are the ones who have something to lose and can therefore never quite say what they think. Tom Wambsgans, the supine, toadying head of the Fox-alike news channel ATN and Logan's son-in-law, is also watching Kendall recant on TV and comments that he looks "waxy, like an unshaven candle". That brilliant, creepy metaphor emerges from the specificity of Tom's character — his fastidiousness, his physical disgust, his horror of failure. All Tom's speech is subtly high-toned — wealth and status are not banal to the upwardly mobile Tom as they are to the Roys. Success is exciting. Accordingly he is given references to Shakespeare and Roman history. He also has a whimsical and high-flown way of talking. "Ah, the king of edible leaves. His Majesty, the spinach!" he exclaims at one dinner. To me that's funnier than a whole page of penis jokes.

For the same reasons the hapless family outsider Cousin Greg is another beautiful source of verbal comedy. The principal trait of his speech is to cravenly and ineptly attempt to match the style of whomever he is trying to impress. With Kendall he tries to project macho efficiency. With Logan's daughter, Shiv, a rather wormy feminism. Appearing in front of a Senate committee he panics and tries to speak in an ultra-formal language based on…what? The US constitution itself?

> Senator Gil Eavis: Gregory Hirsch.
> Executive assistant to Tom Wambsgans, correct?
> Greg: Yes, yes, if it is to be said.
> Gil: I'm sorry?
> Greg: If it is to be said, so it is.
> Gil: Are you all right?
> Greg: Yes, sir. I merely wish to answer in the affirmative fashion.

I think that's one of the funniest scenes in the show. It works on the page too.

So is *Succession* more than funny? Can tragedy flourish in an amoral, consequence-free bubble? An important problem for the show is that the Roys must never get their comeuppance. That would deprive *Succession* of its satirical force. The point is that the rich always get away with it. It's also

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HBO



The wit of Succession

Tom: "You don't really hear much about syphilis these days. Very much the MySpace of STDs."

Ewan: "The 'Logan Roy School of Journalism'? What's next, the 'Jack the Ripper Women's Health Clinic'?"

Tom: "Greg, this is not f***ing Charles Dickens World, OK? You don't go around talking about principles."

Roman: "You look like a dildo dipped in beard trimmings."

Tom: "Are we talking to each other on the poop deck of a majestic schooner? Is the salty brine stinging my weather-beaten face? No? Then why the f*** are you wearing a pair of deck shoes?"

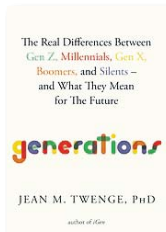
hard for a comic TV show about the futility of wealthy siblings squabbling with one another convincingly to open its scope and depict the greatest political tragedy imaginable — the destruction of a democracy (a problem, I think, with the latest series). *Succession* acquires its most convincing tragic depth when it works on a smaller scale and shows us the lives casually smashed or cracked by the careless brutality of billionaires. Unforgettably the young waiter Kendall leaves to drown at the end of the first series.

Another superb scene takes place at a party in the mansion of Nan Pierce, the matriarch of a liberal media empire. In a sublime moment of progressive hypocrisy she keeps entreating her frantic, overworked maid Rosa to "have a drink with us", apparently unaware that the poor woman is at the party for work not pleasure. "You poor thing, you never treat yourself," she says, smiling, as Rosa hurries back to her duties in the kitchen. Later we watch as "Nan takes the roast pan and places it at the centre of the table with a flourish. She gets a big round of applause from everyone, as if she cooked it… We catch a glimpse of Rosa watching from the kitchen door."

A detail so flawless you wonder if it's a real story wheedled out of someone by the show's hardworking researchers. More scenes like this and fewer jokes about phalluses might have deepened *Succession* and elevated it — made it worthier of its Faber covers. *Succession* is very good. Of course it is. But it's not *War and Peace*. Not quite.

Millennials: we're Gen Screwed

Generational divisions aren't just a media invention, argues this data-dense book. By Will Lloyd



Generations
The Real Differences Between Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, Boomers, and Silents — and What They Mean for America's Future
by Jean M Twenge

Simon & Schuster, 560pp; £20

Martin Amis once considered writing a book called *The Crap Generation*. He planned to bury those we now call Gen X-ers beneath a skyscraper of invective. "It would be non-fiction and arranged in short segments, including 'Crap Music', 'Crap Slang', 'Crap TV', 'Crap Ideology', 'Crap Critics', 'Crap Historians', 'Crap Sociologists', 'Crap Clothes', 'Crap Scarifications' — including crap body piercings and crap tattoos — and 'Crap Names'."

The Crap Generation is itself a Crap Name and has the feel of a limited idea worked on, over several triple gins, down a Soho pub with some mates. The book never went further than that, but the notion that a generation can be "crap" is now widely held. Generational blame games are a national pastime in the US and Britain. Who is crappier? The boomers or the millennials? The Silent Generation or Generation X?

The delightfully named Jean M Twenge will not say. *Generations*, her graph-choked, data-addled investigation into generational myths and realities, is not about "trying to decide whom to 'blame'", because that, Twenge writes, would be "counter-productive".

There are no crap generations. There are only Twenge's lovingly cited, apparently productive data sets. If these prove anything it is that generations, and differences between them, are not a form of astrology for people with PhDs in sociology, but very real indeed. When you are looking at "sexuality, birth rates, political affiliation, income, time use, views about gender, life goals, drug and alcohol use, age at marriage, divorce, leadership roles, education, obesity, self-confidence and desires for material things" you will always find, between the average member of each generation, variations of attitude.

There is no escape from such variations. You are when you were born. Or as Twenge writes truistically: "No one has a choice in the year they were born." Quite right. That makes me a millennial, so of course I tore through all the sepia-toned information about the dotardly Silent Generation and headed straight to the chapter on my people. Such selfish, headstrong individualism is what Twenge would expect for that is (supposedly) the baseline of everybody born between 1980 and 1994. For us, "the individual self was not merely important, it was paramount".

Over the years I've kept a list of descriptions of millennials: "The dumbest generation"; "the screwed generation"; "the entitled generation". The typical millennial stereotype is a Sally Rooney-Lena Dunham mash-up, wandering the post-2008 crash world in skinny jeans, desperate for hard-to-define "experiences", complaining about their landlord, spewing oat milk everywhere and avocado on everything and crying. Dumb, screwed, entitled.

Twenge gives ballast to the dumb stereotype — American millennial educational performance was "the same or worse" as Gen X's. But she then confirms the "entitled" image, adding: "Millennial high school seniors believed that their intelligence was above average." (It was not.)

What about screwed? Surely millennials have had it worse economically than the baby boomers, with their triple-locked pensions, holiday homes bought with teacher's salaries and endless excursions to the golf club, flower show and auction house? Here Twenge shoos away the myth, at least for Americans. Millennials have less sex and fewer children than previous generations. The consequence is that they have fewer toddlers to support. "Looked at this way," Twenge writes, "millennials are doing not just well but extremely well — they are making more money to support fewer people." Their (likely) longer lifespans mean that although they have been slow to get into the economy, they will stay there for longer.

In the end, "millennials may eventually do better than boomers in building wealth". They are already "doing better than their parents' generation, not worse". Their rather anxious support of Seventies-style socialists such as Jeremy Corbyn and Bernie Sanders might have been misplaced. Once they have realised that they are winners, they may do what winners usually do, and begin assiduously building moats around their winnings.

Not that Twenge will go that far. She is after all a social scientist, which these days means throwing graphs at people and rigidly refusing to make judgments that veer away from the data. So *Generations* is an informative and occasionally surprising book to read, but not one from which the average reader will derive much pleasure.

Like so much non-fiction, *Generations* is not for the average reader. It is for the harried executive, baffled that his Gen Z children identify as spatulas, who wants something to flip through on his next flight to Zurich. Twenge offers him an if-present-trends-continue account of generations, a "crystal ball for what is to come". Maybe it can help him to work out what to invest in. Twenge is fluent in the business-lounge prose — Terminalese? Airporteranto? — that these people traffic in. Assaulted by sentences such as "Technology isn't just tablets and phones", I was continually reminded of Miss Jean Brodie's remark: "For those who like that sort of thing, this is the sort of thing they will like."

Even after all the graphs, I was still not sure whether "generations" really existed. They are a useful shorthand — particularly for advertisers, politicians and pundits — but it still makes little sense to me that we can describe both Rishi Sunak (b 1980) and Ash Sarkar (b 1992) as "millennials".

But then, how to explain the fact that different generations in Britain are effectively living with different versions of the social contract? I know, for instance, that I am paying into a system built under the assumption that national birth rates would not decline and there would therefore be enough new workers paying into that system to sustain benefits for those born in the baby boom after the war.

British millennials have no idea how we're going to afford the benefits we are being promised later in life, which are being handed out to our grandparents. That — not cancel culture, or smartphone use, or anxiety about climate change — is the big crap truth that powers the friction between generations.

"We who have lived in England since 1945 have been among the luckiest people in the existence of *Homo sapiens*," the historian Robert Tombs once wrote. You have to be a certain age to think that still holds.

GUY BELL/ALAMY



Millennials welcome Jeremy Corbyn to the stage at Glastonbury in 2017

Surely millennials have it worse than boomers, with their triple-locked pensions

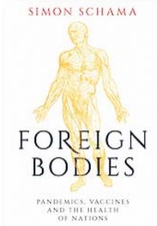
The six generations

The Silents born 1925-1945
Baby Boomers born 1946-1964
Gen X born 1965-1979
Millennials born 1980-1994
Gen Z born 1995-2012
and the still-to-be-named cohorts born after 2012

books

To beat pandemics, fight xenophobia first

Simon Schama's epic history of pandemics takes on Trumpian isolationism. By Rachel Cunliffe



Foreign Bodies
Pandemics, Vaccines and the Health of Nations
by Simon Schama

Simon & Schuster, 465pp; £30

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ALAMY



Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, painted "in Turkish Dress" c 1756. Below right: Waldemar Haffkine



One might not expect a book about a century or two of late modern European history to begin with an ode to a small North American frog. But if anyone has earned the right to an eccentric introduction, surely it is Simon Schama. One of the pre-eminent British historians, Schama has, post-Covid, turned analytical skills fastidiously honed on the French Revolution and plight of European Jews to the history of "pandemics, vaccines and the health of nations".

That means starting with the frogs, *Pseudacris crucifer* to be precise, whose cacophony of pre-coital chirping in spring 2021 felt to humans who had been locked away in fear for over a year as evidence that nature was laughing at us. "The joke's on us. Species are out of place, or incautiously testing human presumptions about where their place actually lies," Schama warns. "Mutuality between humans and animals has been dangerously disrupted."

This matters, as we all are now painfully aware, because a bat or pangolin infected by a new virus on the other side of the world can bring human civilisation to a standstill. The climate change and environmental degradation brought about by globalisation and modern capitalism have made future zoonotic epidemics — diseases transmitted from animals to humans — virtually inevitable.

It is vital, Schama argues, to acknowledge the precarity of our position and for our squabbling governments to put aside short-sighted self-interest and unite, championing the best scientific minds and helping each other to combat this existential threat to humanity. That is a tall order. Schama reminds us that President Trump dismissed Covid-19 as "Kung Flu" and recommended ingesting the horse worming medicine Ivermectin instead of vaccines, while his country's chief medical officer, Anthony Fauci, became the target of a right-wing witch-hunt.

But Schama believes that studying history will help us to beat the sceptics. For the next 350 or so pages, he leaves behind the Hudson Valley, Trump and the spectre of the next ailing bat to return to more familiar ground: smallpox-stricken France circa 1723, when an infected Voltaire survived the disease after drinking 200 pints of lemonade.

What follows is a sweeping account of scientific history over the next two centuries. The level of scholarly detail Schama employs is impressive, whether he's waxing lyrical about the native flora and fauna of his backyard or diving deep into the personal dramas of his cast of medics and scientists. One is described as "ripe for a life scripted by Dostoevsky"; another takes the scandalous decision to leave her father's home in England and move to India to become a "ubiquitous vaccinator, riding around the town to make house visits on a customised horse-drawn carriage driven by herself". Vivid as they are, at times these vignettes make it challenging to follow the overarching narrative, the epic battle between human and pathogen.

On team pathogen: smallpox (responsible for the deaths of around 400,000 Europeans each year in the 18th century), cholera and the waves of bubonic plague, "the modern instalment of the Black Death", that swept across Hong Kong, China and India in the second half of the 19th century, killing millions.

On team human: well, here's where it gets interesting. Edward Jenner, taught in British classrooms as the father of vaccination, barely gets a mention. Instead, credit for smallpox vaccination goes to the Turks, who by the time Europe was panicking about the disease had long been practising implanting infectious matter into children to develop immunity.

It was a determined mother, Lady Wortley Montagu, who brought us vaccines

It was not a physician but a determined mother and smallpox survivor, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, who heard of the procedure in Constantinople and brought it to England, where she had it performed on her daughter. She also, Schama adds, once enjoyed stripping off to her undergarments in an Ottoman hammam full of nude women, sparking some provocative insights about what would now be called intersectional feminism. This doesn't have much to do with vaccines or pandemics, but it's an entertaining image.

European society, then, owed its liberations from smallpox to the "oriental wisdom" of the Turks, and to a woman brave and stubborn enough to "import an untried foreign innovation" to British shores. The lesson is clear: there is no space for xenophobia when it comes to humanity's fight against deadly disease. Which brings us to the true hero of *Foreign Bodies*: Waldemar Mordechai Wolff Haffkine, a Ukrainian Jew born in 1860 whom the great Victorian surgeon Joseph Lister called "the saviour of mankind".

Haffkine's story is an epic in itself. It's a story of rebellion, migration, antisemitism and miraculous scientific discovery. It is Haffkine, whose name rarely seems to get included on the list of the world's greatest medical pioneers, whom we must thank for vaccines for cholera and bubonic plague. In 1892, working at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, he risked his life by testing his cholera vaccine on himself. In Mumbai he rolled out what was essentially the first mass vaccination programme in the world — delivering nearly three million doses of plague vaccine across British India and beyond by 1902.

Haffkine understood, too, the importance of persuading sceptics of vaccination rather than patronising them. At a time of intense fear and suspicion among Indians of the British authorities, he emphasised the need to work with local communities in this "medical civil war", paving the way for vaccine acceptance.

It is a tragedy, then, what happened next. In the autumn of 1902, 19 people in the Punjabi village of Malkowal died of tetanus poisoning after receiving the vaccine. The error was not Haffkine's; an assistant had contaminated a single flask by using a dirty bottle cap. But the British authorities didn't care. Haffkine — ever the outsider, a foreigner, a Jew, not to be trusted — was cruelly scapegoated by the medical establishment. The reputation of the man who had saved millions of lives was destroyed.

By the time Schama has finished with Haffkine's ordeal, it's easy to forget that this all started with frogs. Schama's account makes the case for learning from history and opening our minds to ideas that come from strange places. Whether we like it or not, we're all connected, now more than ever. The next zoonotic outbreak may have already begun, in a farm or a forest or a wet market. If we want to survive it, we'll need to keep our eyes peeled for the Haffkines of the future. And maybe the Lady Wortley Montagus too.

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An A(mis) to Z(adie) of the greatest essayists

Martin Amis was one of the finest cultural essayists — who else is up to his standard? By John Self



As The Times columnist James Marriott reminded us this week, the best writing from Martin Amis could often be found in his book reviews and essays. If an essay is a way of taking a thought for a walk, then we owe the art form to the originator of the modern personal essay, Michel de Montaigne, who reminded us that even "on the highest throne in the world, we are still sitting on our arse". But as long as you're sitting comfortably there, here are some of our favourite modern essay collections to dip into and out of for a quick injection of thought, imagination and laughter.

The War Against Cliché
by Martin Amis (2001)
The funniest, smartest collection of book reviews (and more) around. Martin Amis was never snobbish (he loved Elmore Leonard, "a literary genius who writes re-readable thrillers"), was a contagious enthusiast ("After this," he wrote of Nabokov's posthumous novella *The Enchanter*, "1987 will be all downhill") and was unafraid to dethrone the classics (*Don Quixote* "suffers from one fairly serious flaw — that of outright unreadability"). His writing makes you feel clever and is good company too.

The only problem is that you know you probably won't enjoy reading, say, Saul Bellow's *The Adventures of Augie March* as much as you like reading Amis telling you about it.


George Orwell

Notes of a Native Son
by James Baldwin (1955)
One of the rare writers who can turn their hand with equal brilliance to fiction and non-fiction, James Baldwin was stylish, punchy and political. He wrote in a high style about his family ("The story of my childhood is the usual bleak fantasy"), classic novels ("*Uncle Tom's Cabin* is a very bad novel, having, in its self-righteous, virtuous sentimentality, much in common with *Little Women*") and his adopted home of France, where villagers collected money to convert Africans to Christianity. "I was careful to express astonishment and pleasure," he wrote, "at the solicitude shown by the village for the souls of black folk."

The White Album
by Joan Didion (1979)
Joan Didion was a super-hip, ultra-cool chronicler of 1960s and 1970s California and the leading female exponent of the New Journalism: stylish, countercultural and always bringing the author into the story. I challenge you to start reading the title essay (beginning: "We tell ourselves stories in order to live") and not carry on through its chronicle of murder, drugs and the Doors (the "missionaries of apocalyptic sex"). Didion wrote just as effortlessly about writers, places and her life. *In Bed* recounts her experiences of migraines. "When the pain recedes… everything goes with it, all the hidden resentments, all the vain anxieties." Well, Didion knew about vanity, but we love her anyway.

Yoga for People Who Can't Be Bothered to Do It by Geoff Dyer (2003)
"Everything in this book really happened," Geoff Dyer writes in the introduction to this collection of what we might loosely call travel essays, "but some of the things that happened only happened in my head." Dyer, a borderline national treasure, is sharp and self-deprecatingly funny. He poses as a slacker who never gets anything done on his quest for enlightenment, but has a brain the size of a planet and the gift of charm. He is equally at home writing about techno music, DH Lawrence or an airport so ugly that it "seemed to have been designed in such a way as to anticipate the effect of 10, 20, 30 years of heavy smoking".

The Little Virtues by Natalia Ginzburg (1962)
The rediscovery of the Italian writer Natalia Ginzburg by English readers is one of the great literary joys of the past decade. Ginzburg could be deceptively trivial (writing about friendship through the act of buying new shoes), deeply moving (on the death of her friend the novelist Cesare Pavese) and funny about her time in England ("the English do not drink water, but quench their thirst with endless cups of tea"). Her life under Mussolini's dictatorship — her husband was murdered by the Fascist police — gave her a taste for bravery. She believed that children "should be taught not the little virtues, but the great ones. Not thrift but generosity… not caution but courage."

Reliable Essays by Clive James (2001)
Clive James, best known when I was growing up for his TV shows making fun of Scandinavian condom adverts, was in truth happier being the polymath's polymath and keen to show it off. But you didn't mind when he could be so entertaining and provocative, whether analysing Philip Larkin ("The voice was unmistakable. It made misery beautiful") or following Margaret Thatcher across China (the local drink, mao tai, "has the same effect as inserting your head in a cupboard and asking a large male friend to slam the door"). With James you get to laugh and learn at the same time.

Forty-One False Starts
by Janet Malcolm (2013)
Janet Malcolm, who died in 2021, could make anything thrilling — psychoanalysis, journalistic morals, reading Chekhov, the Plath-Hughes marriage — but this collection of essays about artists and writers shows her at her acute, perceptive best. Hell, she even found fresh things to say about the boring old Bloomsbury group. The title piece offers 41 different openings to an essay about the artist David Salle, reflecting him in fragments, like a mirrorball. And she brilliantly rescues JD Salinger from his reputation as "the seriously annoying creator of the Glass family", concluding that reading him is a "consistently bracing experience" — just like reading Malcolm.

Don Quixote 'suffers from one fairly serious flaw — outright unreadability' (Martin Amis)

Essays by George Orwell (1984)
The modern English political essay owes everything to George Orwell, an everyman figure who had a visionary eye. Messianically opposed to mealy-mouthed woolly thinking ("To write in plain, vigorous language one has to think fearlessly"), Orwell wrote about war ("As I write, highly civilised human beings are flying overhead, trying to kill me"), antisemitism in Britain ("The persecutions in Germany have caused much concealment of antisemitic feeling"), class, socialism and education. But he also wrote about PG Wodehouse, toads, tabloid newspapers and the lowly figure of the book reviewer: "If things are normal with him he will be suffering from malnutrition, but if he has recently had a lucky streak he will be suffering from a hangover." I'll drink to that.

Feel Free by Zadie Smith (2018)
You don't need to have read Zadie Smith's novels to know that her essays are better; after all, the essays are so brilliant that the novels couldn't possibly be as good. She is unpretentious, breezily welcoming us into a topic, then delivering what Amis called "a transfusion from above" on subjects we didn't know we were interested in: Christian Marclay's 24-hour video artwork *The Clock*, say, or Lynette Yiadom-Boakye's paintings. Smith excels at communicating joy — take her piece on resisting, then coming to love, the music of Joni Mitchell — and, like Dyer, she even manages to make travel writing not boring.

The Kandy-Kolored Tangerine-Flake Streamline Baby by Tom Wolfe (1965)
Tom Wolfe's hyperactive, antic, excitable style is perfectly expressed in the title of the opening essay in his debut collection: *Las Vegas (What?) Las Vegas (Can't Hear You! Too Noisy) Las Vegas!!!!* The Southern gent in the white suit roamed round the American popular culture of the early 1960s — custom cars, Cassius Clay, "hemp-smoking flipniks" — with a particular eye on high society, showing off their ridiculousness in a way only a man who secretly loved them could. Full of repetitions and exclamations, Wolfe's writing can be exhausting to keep up with — "The mind boggles, baby" — but what a ride.

books

The man who started the wild swimming craze

This biography captures ad man, petrolhead and back-to-nature guru Roger Deakin in all his contradictory pomp. By Tom Parfitt

PETER EVERARD SMITH



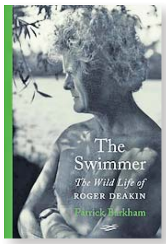
Roger Deakin taking a dip in the moat at his Suffolk home

With his almost single-handed creation of the "wild" swimming craze a quarter of a century ago, the naturalist Roger Deakin became something of a guru. Inspired by John Cheever's classic short story, *The Swimmer*, in which the protagonist makes his way home from a Long Island party through a series of swimming pools, Deakin set off from the moat at his 16th-century farmhouse in the Suffolk village of Mellis to swim through Britain. He swam down rivers, across bays and through lochs and ponds. His cleverly titled book *Waterlog*, the story of that journey, was a literary sensation when it was published in 1999.

Adopting a "frog's eye view", Deakin took readers on a deliciously oddball quest. Wild swimming, he argued, promised an otter's delight at being alive; a depressed man could come out from a dip "a whistling idiot". A descent into a chasm known as Hell Gill, on the edge of the Lake District, brought on a bout of terror. Even that left him feeling "profoundly changed and cleansed by the long slide and the deep drenching". While dodging coastguards and river keepers, Deakin also pictured a future in which Britain's waterways would one day flow free, unhindered by fish farms and watercress beds.

In the eyes of his admirers, Deakin was a green god, a status that was burnished by his death in 2006 from a brain tumour at the age of 63. Thousands extolled the virtues of his aqua-cure; numerous watery imitations followed his memoir. The exuberance of *Waterlog* was assailed by po-faced talk of "liminal edges" and "elemental immersions", and Walnut Tree Farm, his home, became a place of pilgrimage where you could stay the night and dip your toe in the holy moat. Meanwhile, the University of East Anglia took on his archive, cataloguing his black Speedos as *RD/WLOG/2/34 — Swimwear*.

Now, 24 years after the book, the only one he published in his lifetime, comes a necessary corrective: a biography that captures Deakin in all his contradictory pomp — ad man and poet, ecologist and petrolhead, generous friend and sometimes obnoxious lover.



The Swimmer
The Wild Life of Roger Deakin
by Patrick Barkham

Hamish Hamilton, 364pp; £20

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

Patrick Barkham, a smart naturalist and a skilled and sensitive writer, takes a risky approach. Barkham started, he says, with 90,000 words of conventional cradle-to-grave biography, then scrapped the lot. Instead, he makes Deakin the lead narrator, mining his journals and letters and melding them into a story. Interspersed are the recollections of Deakin's acquaintances, and the whole is arranged by theme in chapters with titles such as *The Wild Boy, The Builder* and *The Husband.*

It is a technique, the author admits, that would probably have outraged Deakin, so attentive was he to detail. I too was unnerved. The book begins with "Roger's" first-person account of conceiving the idea for *Waterlog*. Whose thoughts are these, Barkham's or Deakin's? Yet the voice is rich and authentic, and one is quick to believe Barkham's promise: that he has stuck close to primary sources, never inventing scenes or introducing feelings that Deakin did not express somewhere.

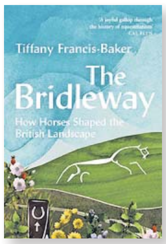
Full disclosure: Deakin was a pal of my dad's, and used to come to our farm in the Waveney Valley to inspect our flower meadows. As a child, I visited Walnut Tree Farm several times and can attest to the leaves streaming through doorways and the scurrying visitants from the animal world, making the house a liminal zone, if you must, between outside and in.

What *The Swimmer* grasps is that Deakin was an extraordinary man in an extraordinary moment. The son of a railway clerk born in suburban London in 1943, he progressed to Cambridge, studying English under Kingsley Amis. As a graduate he was at the vanguard of the revolution that was born between, in Larkin's phrase, the Lady Chatterley trial and the Beatles' first LP. In between flogging furniture on Portobello Road and writing ad copy, he assembled artists, architect and musician chums for dinners at his sprawling flat.

In East Anglia, to which he retreated in the early 1970s, a rural counterculture was ripening. Deakin fitted in perfectly. *The Whole Earth Catalog* and Friends of the

A gallop through Britain's horsey history

This earnest equine study carries the reader from the White Horse to polo ponies. By Melanie Reid



The Bridleway
How Horses Shaped the British Landscape
by Tiffany Francis-Baker

Bloomsbury Wildlife, 256pp; £17.99

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

Nature writing is experiencing a publishing gold rush. At the cerebral end, authors seek an intellectual reckoning with the crisis of our age; at the other, there's never enough advice on how to rewild your garden. Robert Macfarlane, an early rock star of the genre, summed it up with magnificent fatalism; the landscape, he wrote in *The Wild Places*, watched humans arrive and just as surely one day it will watch us depart.

Latest to the fray is Tiffany Francis-Baker, a young writer, artist and environmentalist who has already published books about foraging, bees and our relationship with darkness. This time she's exploring our relationship with the horse and its influence on landscape. She's a busy woman: last month she published an escapist's guide to "cottagecore aesthetic" and next year she has a guide to seasonal living coming out. In *The Bridleway* she travels around the south of England exploring traces of the horse, from the hidden green havens of Hampshire's bridle paths — with echoes of William Cobbett's *Rural Rides*, still in print 200 years after its publication — to the mysterious Uffington White Horse in Oxfordshire, carved in the chalk 3,000 years ago, to Dartmoor, where ponies toiled in granite quarries. Everywhere, she ponders the deep connections between us and horses.



"When the 'civilised' world feels inhospitable, uncomfortable, there is something about going to earth, seeking out deep, green spaces, that feels like sanctuary — like going home," she writes in this chatty memoir and horse history. Horses are the perfect intermediary between us and the rest of nature. "On its back, we open a line of communication with an animal that, for hundreds, if not thousands, of years, has… carried us along quiet lanes and over windswept hills, through frothing streams and into moss-damp dells."

Her book ranges across horses in sculpture, horses in Nordic myth, the horse-like demon Nuckelavee in Orkney, horses at war, horses in industry (she must mean working life when she says the average life for a pit pony was three and a half years) and sports horses. There are plenty of trigger warnings for her contemporaries: be wary of folklore, she says, quoting an expert who warns that it has been used in the past as a weapon to underpin racist and nationalist agendas. Francis-Baker thinks the English folk tradition of Obby Osses capturing women during festivals "feels particularly uncomfortable".

There is an interesting chapter on highwaymen and the Devil's Punch Bowl in Surrey — I never knew the London to Portsmouth road had such a torrid history — and she has a useful round-up of English female horseback pioneers and adventurers. In a rousingly feminist detour into sidesaddle riding, which was apparently a way of keeping the rider's hymen intact for marriage, she says it "led to centuries of women riding precariously and uncomfortably, all to uphold a toxic and unrealistic image of motherhood". Riding astride was associated with lesbianism — naturally — and Marie Antoinette's mother warned her that it would make her barren.

Francis-Baker wants to change the world; she ends most chapters with a homily. After an anecdote about how hard she found it to play polo, she regrets the elitism and wealth that surrounds the sport; she would like a little of that money rerouted to those who need it most. A herd

Sidesaddle riding was thought to keep the rider's hymen intact for marriage

of primitive Przewalski's horses is a symbol of how we feel obliged to tame nature, instead of recognising that we are just one species among many. The Elgin Marbles make her uncomfortable because they echo "Britain's strange colonial assumption that Britain always knows best".

She would like more research into bringing heavy horses back to work the land and sees a future for horses in leisure and mental health therapy. She's not wrong when she points out that the negative side of modern equestrianism is accessibility, cost and diversity, and she sweetly and bravely

Earth set the tone. My dad and Deakin helped to organise Barsham Faire, a huge and anarchic annual gathering that was a glorious mashing of hippydom and country life. Longhairs from London mixed with horny-handed sons of the soil.

Deakin was an intelligent character, but he was not a saint. Living in Mellis, he indulged his childhood interest in nature, made documentaries, worked on *Wildwood*, a posthumously published book about trees, taught English at a nearby grammar and campaigned against farmers ripping out oaks. He also drove a dandyish Morgan sports car, cheated on at least one partner and rebuilt his house with a poacher notorious for bonking round the back of a pub. Perhaps his greatest achievement before *Waterlog* was co-founding Common Ground, a charity that worked to protect "local distinctiveness". Its passion was a forerunner of modern crusades like Extinction Rebellion.

What Barkham conveys is a complex man, at times cussed or even abusive, often delightful, and with a sense of glee and purpose. His pupils remember night-time trips to see the sunrise over Holkham beach; a friend recalls his "Tiggerish intensity". Of him, the nature writer Richard Mabey says: "He refused to have an over-burdened tragic or serious view of life… he appreciated and loved the muddle of things, and always believed they could be partially resolved."

Too often, environmentalism can seem a sombre business. Deakin once noted that the American eco-sage Barry Lopez rarely cracked a smile. In his eternal curiosity and refusal to submit to doom, the Deakin who surfaces in *The Swimmer* is a talisman after all. "What we have to understand is whether life is a little, cautious grasping affair, or whether it is wonderful," he once wrote, in Barkham's telling. Hail to that.

Tom Parfitt is the author of *High Caucasus: A Mountain Quest in Russia's Haunted Hinterland*, to be published by Headline on July 20

points out that one big positive is that nonbinary people can compete with men and women on a level playing field. Horse riding is also an empowering way for women to go alone into the countryside, she decrees.

Francis-Baker sounds like a likeable, kind young woman with her heart in the right place. But this is an awfully millennial book (she was born in 1992) and written in a rush, inconsistent in tone and language, freely referencing Google and Wikipedia as her aids. Anyone above a certain age will find it artless, a rediscovering of the wheel. The two recent magisterial books on the horse's relationship to humans, Susanna Forrest's *The Age of the Horse* and Ulrich Raulff's *Farewell to the Horse*, are missing from her references.

The Bridleway reminded me most of BBC1's *Countryfile*, dumbed down for a Sunday teatime townie audience. There are exasperating statements of the obvious — "for the people of Britain, like so many others, May Day is a jubilant time"; the War of the Roses was "a complex period in England's history"; and — please — no author of a credible book on horses has to explain, or waits until page 161 to do so, that a gelding is a castrated male.

I really don't want to be mean. If Francis-Baker leads her contemporaries to deeper, kinder connections with nature, then our common humanity will be the better for it. And it's a crying shame she is so rushed by the brutal economics of publishing, because she is capable of writing beautifully. One day, I hope, she will have space and time to do herself proud.

GETTY IMAGES



Prussian Uhlans fighting French Zoaves, painted by Christian Sell in 1876

The gory invention of Germany

The French were outclassed on the battlefield in 1871, paving the way for a unified Germany. By Pratinav Anil

It is perverse to call the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 "Bismarck's War" when it was incontrovertibly Louis-Napoleon's. Smarting from his botched attempt to overthrow the Mexican republic and plagued by unrest at home, the French emperor fancied a swift war. He would be in and out of Prussia in a flash, postcoitally basking in military glory. There was, however, a minor snag that he appeared to have overlooked. Wars rarely are quickies.

A cautious ruler would have known this from history and hindsight, but Napoleon Bonaparte's nephew was hubristic. Prussia was getting too big for its boots, he felt. It had been expanding for a while now, and chancelleries across Europe were nervous. Wilhelm I was gunning for German unification; the task of Otto von Bismarck, his minister-president, was to achieve it without compromising Prussia's character, that of an authoritarian monarchy with a strong army and assured gentry. And, boy, was the dour general good at his job.

So began the Continent's bloodiest war between the Napoleonic Wars and the First World War. Two million soldiers saw action and nearly 200,000 died. *Bismarck's War* reads like Vasily Grossman's *Stalingrad*, which is to say that the historian Rachel Chrastil is superb on the human consequences of war.

It is ravishing in its evocations of wartime life: soldiers wading through wet potato fields; children sleeping with their shoes on to make a hasty escape during shelling; the Prussian crown prince, sozzled on Veuve Clicquot, romping through the French countryside; butchers falling back on cats and dogs in place of conventional meat.

Chrastil relates how the shock of the old combined with the shock of the new. Information coursed through telegraph lines, but orders on the front were conveyed by commanders shouting themselves hoarse. At Gravelotte, in the space of 20 minutes, 8,000 Prussians fell to French mitrailleuses, essentially crude machineguns (war heroes had been put out of business, the novelist George Sand complained, because the Franco-Prussian War was but an "exchange of projectiles"). Other theatres had bayonet charges and hand-to-hand combat. The Prussians deployed Saxon hawks to kill French pigeons carrying millions of letters on microfilm. "Always amputate," went the dictum of a Strasbourg surgeon, on the principle of better safe than sorry. But in truth, it was a death sentence: only one in four survived amputations.

Above all, Chrastil's book confirms the sociologist Charles Tilly's aphoristic paradox that war made the state and the state made war. There was no "Germany" when the war began. Bavarians may have joined their longstanding nemeses, the Prussians, to do battle with the French, but this did not stop Bavarian peasants from cutting down their corn when they sighted the Prussian army: the enemy was coming. Nations are fanciful things. Yet by the end of the war "Germans" were ready to die for the German Empire, which was proclaimed, wickedly, in the Hall of Mirrors of the occupied Palace of Versailles in 1871.

How that transpired takes up a good chunk of the book. Chrastil's autopsy of French folly is a well-worn one. True, the French *Chassepot* was vastly superior to the Prussian rifle. True, too, the French were braver. But theirs was the rash bravery of the recently conscripted. The German grunts were veterans; the French counterparts were neophytes learning on the job. German hussars also fought dirty. At Mars-la-Tour they charged in a dense fog screaming, "Vive la France, Vive l'Empereur!" skewering confused Frenchmen.

France's bovine generals offered a study in contrast to Prussia's world-weary strategists. When the war began, the French were frantically recalling horses leased out for budgetary reasons to stubborn farmers who wouldn't part with them. The self-assured Helmuth von Moltke, chief of the Prussian general staff, meanwhile, could be found curled up on his sofa reading Walter Scott: "Why not? Everything is ready. We've only got to press the button."

Germany's steel cannons, made by Krupps, proved the star of the war. The French army, which found itself a sitting duck at Sedan, seemed aware of this. "We are in the chamber-pot," the French general Auguste-Alexandre Ducrot observed, "and we shall be shat on." Louis-Napoleon surrendered there once the Prussians began raining shells on them. Paris fell on pain of starvation only because Moltke — whom the bloodthirsty Bismarck thought was in hock to the woke troika of "women, archbishops and professors" — preferred a relatively more humane siege to bombardment.

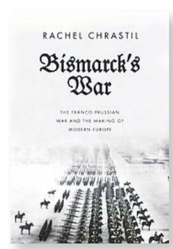
Chrastil's descriptive prose is crystal clear. But description is one thing, interpretation another. Historiographically speaking, *Bismarck's War* is a step backwards. Michael Howard in his 1961 volume *The Franco-Prussian War*, devoted far fewer pages to the fighting and many more to exploring the two national cultures at the heart of the Franco-Prussian War. Chrastil, by contrast, is rather more fascinated by individual battles, many of which take up whole chapters.

Howard's account is perhaps too sanitised, too cerebral, but this one betrays the opposite impulse, an unwillingness to spell out broader implications barring the occasional self-help nugget of wisdom: a "focus on minutiae instead of strategy is a caution to other leaders in a crisis". She is, in some measure, guilty as charged. On the one hand, we are told that "it would be a mistake to assume that the Franco-Prussian War created a direct line to the Great War". All the same, a few pages later we learn that the Franco-Prussian War made the world wars "more thinkable and created their possibility". Which is it?

It seems, then, that Chrastil doesn't quite know what to make of her material. The Paris Commune, by far the most significant upshot of the war, is treated in a few cursory pages. Indeed, the short-lived regime — Europe's first revolutionary socialist state — set the tone of the 20th century. Chrastil makes light of its ambitions, but in a mere 72 days the Commune put in place a minimum wage, separated church and state, and established equal pay for men and women. It would have achieved more had the Orléanist leadership — decamped to Versailles — not suppressed the Commune with the help of 65,000 French prisoners of war freshly released from German jails.

It was to bury the Commune's memory, and to expiate the sins of the Communards, that the Sacré-Coeur was built in Montmartre. Will we soon witness a Moscow Commune in reaction to Putin's war, another act of hubris? Time will tell.

Pratinav Anil is a lecturer in History at St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford



Bismarck's War
The Franco-Prussian War and the Making of Modern Europe
by Rachel Chrastil

Allen Lane, 512pp; £30

German hussars charged in a dense fog screaming 'Vive la France!' skewering confused Frenchmen

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

books

The rise and falls of Henry the blunderer

Exploited by friends, abused by foes, Henry III had few triumphs. Part two of this masterly life story reveals his reign of ridicule. By Dan Jones

Sunday, October 13, 1269, was the happiest day of Henry III's life. Not that there had been much competition. The old king had ruled England for more than half a century and in that time he had been frequently tormented. Faction, rebellion and ridicule had been the hallmarks of his reign. Ever since coming to the throne in 1216 as a nine-year-old, Henry had been manipulated by his friends and abused by his enemies. For a short time, between 1264 and 1265, he had been effectively deposed.

Yet there was one sphere of kingship in which the 62-year-old monarch excelled: the spectacular. On October 13, he showed the world what he could do.The occasion was the transfer (or "translation") of the body of another hapless but well-intentioned English king, Edward the Confessor, to a new shrine at the heart of a substantially rebuilt Westminster Abbey.

The Confessor was one of Henry's heroes, and his new tomb, a masterpiece of pious high-medieval architecture, was built under Henry's careful supervision by the Roman sculptor-architects known as the Cosmati. (The Cosmati also laid the glorious mosaic pavement in front of the high altar on which much of the coronation of Charles III took place.)

Before the Confessor was laid in this grand new resting place, his coffin was carried ceremonially around the outside of the church. The pallbearers included Henry, his two sons, his brother (Richard, king of the Romans) and a gaggle of nobles who crowded round, trying to lay a fingertip on the holy casket. Next, the congregation watched as the Confessor was winched into a gold, jewelled reliquary at the top of his new shrine. Finally, they gave thanks to God before retiring to Westminster Hall for a splendid feast — the menu for which is, alas, lost.

COLIN UNDERHILL/ALAMY



Stained glass portrait of Henry III at Bridgnorth Town Hall, Shropshire

For Henry, the ceremony and the reconstruction of Westminster Abbey were rare triumphs. What was more, they were his triumphs. "In terms of initiative, it was all his own doing," David Carpenter writes in the concluding volume of his masterly two-part biography. "Nothing would have happened without him."

This is not entirely meant as a compliment. The defining political feature of Henry's long reign was the king's inability to impose himself on his realm — a personal failing that regularly cast 13th-century England into crisis.

Henry III is not one of our best-known kings. His father, King John, granted Magna Carta in 1215 and lost his Crown Jewels in the Wash. Henry's son, Edward I "Longshanks", subjugated the Welsh and hammered the Scots. Henry ruled for longer than those two kings' reigns combined — yet his achievements are mostly in the negative.

As a young king, Henry was unable to free himself from the political constraints laid on him as a consequence of Magna Carta, nor confident enough to govern without the influence of overbearing ministers. His entwined appetites for religious splendour and royal prestige were in keeping with his time, yet he was reliably outshone by his contemporary the sainted Louis IX, King of France. Henry was prone to wander into naïve schemes, such as his disastrous agreement with the papacy to buy and conquer Sicily.

His blundering, reactive kingship and absolute inability to place a strong, directing hand on government in the style of his grandfather Henry II meant that reform was imposed upon him in a series of rebellions and revolutions which culminated in all-out civil war.

The first volume of Carpenter's vast, learned and delightfully readable biography, published in 2020, takes the story of Henry's life and reign from his birth in 1207 to a moment of high political drama in 1258 when a party of barons in armour marched on Westminster and demanded reform at the point of their swords.

This new volume brings the story home. As Carpenter writes in his introduction, this means that it covers 14 years rather than the 51 of volume one. But the imbalance is justified for "the years from 1258 [to 1272] … are amongst the most dramatic and traumatic periods in English history".

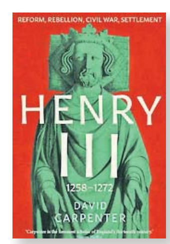
Not half. Finding himself unable to resist the baronial reformers of 1258, Henry submitted to them, which in the short term was a very good idea.

The reformers who took control of his government did everything Henry had neglected: they restored some order to England's finances, passed strict laws attacking corruption and malpractice among public officials, answered populist demands for the expulsion of foreigners and proclaimed their work in English as well as Latin and French. Parliament — now composed of two fledgling houses of Lords and Commons — was recognised as an essential forum for public business.

Unfortunately, once their work was done, crises swiftly resumed. As they did, one man came to the fore of the opposition: the king's brother-in-law, Simon de Montfort. As bullheaded as Henry was passive, de Montfort eventually came to see his direct rule of England as the best alternative to the king's sclerotic leadership.

This was not a peaceful nor a sustainable solution. Civil war erupted, and although de Montfort captured Henry at the Battle of Lewes in 1264, his supremacy was short-lived. In the exceptionally bloody "away fixture" of the Battle of Evesham in 1265, where the royalists were led by the future Edward I, de Montfort was killed. His body was dismembered, his genitals stuffed into his mouth. "So the testicles which had generated Montfort's brood of sons now choked the mouth from which had flowed so many threats, so many insults, so much self-righteous cant and so much danger," Carpenter writes. "Montfort's two most vital organs were insulted and condemned together."

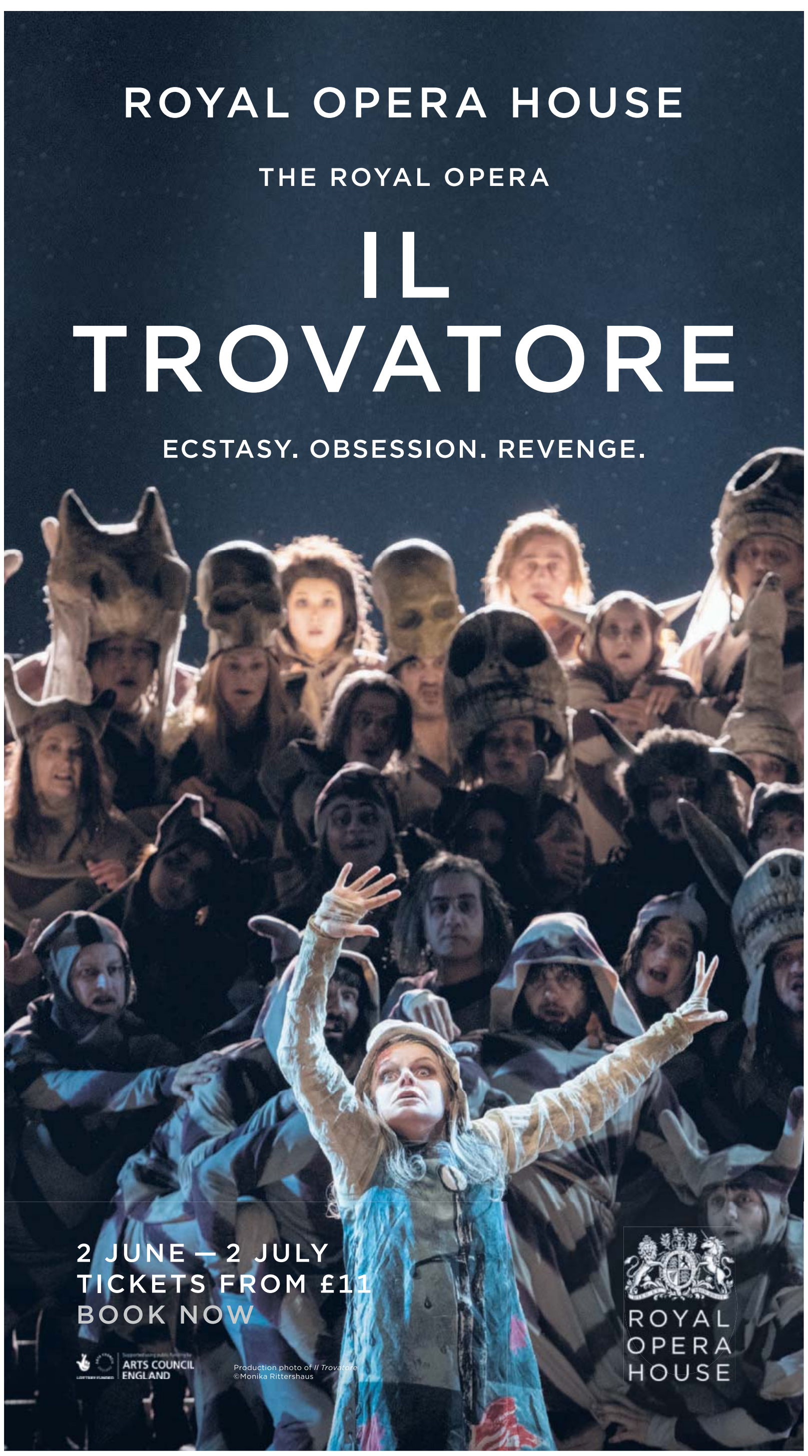
At the start of this book, Carpenter claims no special talent for compelling narrative. He is far too modest. There are few historians working today who know so much and write so well. Taken together, the two volumes of *Henry III* are more than just the fruits of four decades of Carpenter's scholarship. They set a gold standard for medieval royal biography. The rather tired and outdated Yale English Monarchs series urgently needs updating. With this, his life's crowning work, Carpenter has shown the way ahead.



Henry III
Reform, Rebellion, Civil War, Settlement 1258-1272
by David Carpenter
Yale, 728pp; £30

The second half of his reign was one of the most traumatic periods in English history

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935





Love in the molly house

Antonia Senior's picks include a tale of gay love in Victorian England and Napoleonic adventures at sea

Book of the month

historical fiction

Radical Love by Neil Blackmore *Hutchinson Heinemann, 279pp; £16.99*
In a Southwark church in 1809 the Rev John Church preaches to his working-class congregation about the power of love and freedom. At night, this former rent boy conducts marriages at a molly house, a secret meeting place for gay men. Church, who narrates *Radical Love*, falls in love with Ned, an African campaigner for the abolition of slavery.

As the novel unfolds, it becomes clear that Church lies to the reader — and himself. He does terrible things and acts on impulse — "It is in my nature to swan-dive into what I feel, without fear, without caution" — and yet despite his faults we root for him.

Radical Love is based on the true story of John Church, an early 19th-century minister. Neil Blackmore has taken the historical facts and created an imaginative story that explores male desire in an intolerant time. With wit and aplomb he performed a similar trick in *The Dangerous Kingdom of Love*, riffing on the gay life of the polymath Francis Bacon. *Radical Love* confirms Blackmore as being one of the most original voices in historical fiction today.

Leeward by Katie Daysh
Canelo, 352pp; £18.99
The explosive opening of this debut *Age of Sail* novel is set during the Battle of the Nile in 1798. When the magazine of the French flagship the Orient catches fires it causes a huge explosion, showering the nearby HMS Lion. To Captain Hiram Nightingale it seems as if the sun has erupted. He is badly wounded and his close friend, the first lieutenant, is killed.

Two years later Captain Nightingale, physically recovered but mentally scarred, takes command of HMS Scylla in Antigua. He fears he has lost the bullishness necessary to command a ship. To make matters worse, he has a complicated relationship with his father, a ferocious admiral who pushed him into the Royal Navy. Also, although married, Nightingale has same-sex leanings. As he follows his orders to chase a British ship in the hands of mutineers across the Caribbean, the secret politics of the slave-owning colonies make his mission seem impossible.

Leeward should appeal widely, but if, like me, you are an obsessive fan of novels set in Nelson's navy, this standout debut from Daysh, the first in a planned trilogy, will make your geeky heart sing sea shanties.

The Story of the Forest by Linda Grant
Virago, 288pp; £18.99
In 1913 a Jewish girl called Mina Mendel goes mushroom hunting in a Latvian forest where she dances under the trees with a group of young Bolsheviks. Her adventurous spirit means she decides to emigrate to America with her brother Jossel but they only get as far as Liverpool. In Linda Grant's wise, sad and sometimes humorous family saga, we follow the siblings as they start new lives in Liverpool, then their children and grandchildren, their Latvian heritage fading with each generation. The story of Mina going into the forest becomes the family's fairytale, and Grant explores how families build their identity on stories and myths that mutate in the telling.

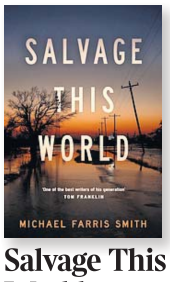
The Ghost Theatre by Mat Osman
Bloomsbury, 320pp; £16.99
Shay, a girl in Elizabethan London, belongs to a religious sect that believes it can tell the future from the movement of birds. She is a messenger who carries letters over the rooftops because it is quicker than the crowded streets. One day she meets Nonesuch, one of a troupe of child actors. The pair soon get up to mischief on London's streets and Shay is often reluctant to return home — her mother is dead and her father is blind and losing his mind. The boy actors are forced to provide "extras" for the theatre owner's well-connected friends, so Nonesuch and Shay decide to set up a new enterprise, a magical ghost theatre — but their growing fame brings trouble. Mat Osman is best known as the bassist for the indie band Suede and this second novel is wildly inventive and full of fantastical elements jostling alongside gritty realism.

Napoleon's Spy by Ben Kane
Orion, 336pp; £16.99
Matthieu Carrey is in disgrace. Half-English, a gambler and a drunkard, he has been disowned by his French father, a royalist exile. In an effort to repair his fortunes, Carrey takes part in a cross-Channel people-smuggling operation. A man is killed and Carrey is forced to flee to France. In Paris, Carrey's gambling derails him again, and he is blackmailed by an English spy into joining the French forces as they invade Russia. He is to become a messenger and gain access to Napoleon's correspondence.

The first half of *Napoleon's Spy* is fun — a picaresque tale of duels, love affairs and gambling dens. The second is a searing, vivid account of Napoleon's terrible retreat from Moscow.

To order any of these books go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

Take a hearse for a drive round the Deep South



Salvage This World
by Michael Farris Smith
No Exit, 255pp; £9.99

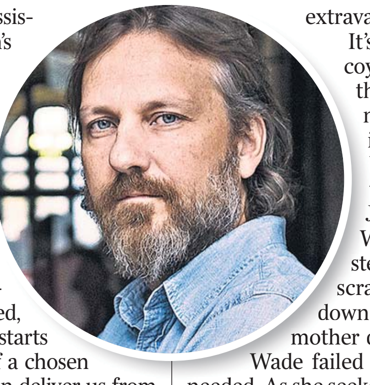
To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

This is a devilish slice of Southern noir from an author with a Hollywood future. By Robbie Millen

Violence. Whiskey. Menace. Despair. Doom. Weirdness. That's the flavour of the novels of Michael Farris Smith, a writer from Mississippi who is as Southern noir as they come. He is also capable of beautiful writing, the sort that takes wing. His new novel, an upmarket thriller, has all of the above qualities.

The villain of the piece, Elser, is the sort of character you could imagine stepping from the pages of a Flannery O'Connor short story. A travelling preacher, this "small, wrinkled, lightweight monster" rants and raves her "mindf*** of a religion" across Mississippi and Louisiana, pitching up her tent, the Temple of Pain and Glory, in hope-forsaken towns. She is driven about in an old hearse; along the length of the driver's side are spraypainted the words YOU DROVE THE NAILS; on the passenger's side YOU SPILLED THE BLOOD. Small talk for her is telling people: "I have seen the fires of Hell. And you dance among the flames."

But Elser is no madder than the weather. South Mississippi in Farris Smith's telling is so hurricane-lashed that people are leaving. Farms are abandoned, shopping malls lie empty, alien kudzu vines "reach into broken windows like the tentacles of reclamation". The locals are desperate, but find salvation in Elser's hellfire creed, even more so when she starts claiming the existence of a chosen child, a "little girl who can deliver us from the rumble of the almighty storms".



Holt, a strong silent type and rural hick, joins her retinue. He steals something important from her and goes on the run, chased by a ruthless gang. Bodies turn up in car boots. At the beginning of *Salvage This World*, his partner, twentysomething Jessie, has to make a desperate midnight flit with their toddler son, Jace. We meet her as she steals a car from outside a cabin in the forests, dodging a wolf with "bone-white fangs" chained up outside. See what I mean about the gothic extravagance.

It's not all menace and coyotes howling across the midnight emptiness. There is a touching portrait of the broken-down relationship between Jessie and her father. Wade is out of luck (he steals aircon units for scrap metal) and weighed down with regret. Jessie's mother died in childbirth and Wade failed to be the parent she needed. As she seeks refuge with him, you hope they can make good on their lost years. Farris Smith, *above*, also has a lovely turn of phrase: a sky at dusk is a "bloodorange strip of melancholy"; elsewhere, "a gathering of nickelgray clouds waited like patient predators".

Despite its qualities, this is not his most successful novel. As ever, Farris Smith is strong on mood and sense of place, but Holt is too blank a character and the Lovecraftian feel of the ending is too weird to convince or grip. But Farris Smith is worth keeping an eye on. Not perhaps for his 2021 novel, *Nick*, which imagined the early life of Nick Carraway from *The Great Gatsby* — which inevitably got mixed reviews — but for his Southern noir thrillers, which the film world has just discovered.

Desperation Road, his gripping 2017 tale of revenge, returning convicts and bad cops in Mississippi, has been turned into a film featuring Mel Gibson. His 2018 novel *The Fighter* is also being adapted for the screen under the name *Rumble Through the Dark*. It is a powerful and touching story about a punch-drunk bareknuckle boxer who, despite his waning strength, must get back in the ring to raise money for his dementia-ravaged foster mother. And surely *Blackwood*, his haunting novel from 2020, will follow: that tale of revenant-like strangers and strangling kudzu vines menacing a small town would also make for a brooding film. Violence. Whiskey. Menace. Despair. It's all there too.

books

The warped life of a jihadist boy-poet

This powder keg of a novel shows how neglect and poverty can turn violent. By Georgia Heneage

DAVID LEVENSON/GETTY IMAGES





Mister, Mister
by Guy Gunaratne
Tinder, 384pp; £20

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

Yahya Bas, the jihadist antihero of *Mister, Mister*, begins by telling us he's guilty. "Guilty of treason. Guilty of inspiring bad men. Guilty of all of it. And more."

This sort of grandiose statement is typical of Guy Gunaratne, a writer not known for subtlety. Gunaratne's debut novel *In Our Mad and Furious City*, longlisted for the Booker in 2018, was set in a council estate in northwest London, a place much like Neasden, where the author grew up. It was told through the patois of three teenage boys caught up in race riots. Although it was at times affecting, the political message was too insistent and hamfisted.

Mister, Mister is a provocative powder keg — just as heavy and political, but more successful as a work of fiction, mostly because the first-person narrator is so compelling. At the start of the book he has been deported from Syria and imprisoned in a detention centre somewhere in Britain. He has sliced out his tongue and pens his tale for the eyes of his bullying British interrogator — the "Mister" of the novel.

Growing up in an "ayah" (a refuge for poor Muslim women) in Thatcher's Eighties, above a cash-and-carry store in East Ham, he has a childhood of neglect and poverty. He is clucked over by half a dozen "Mothers" (widow lodgers) while his real mother, Estella, who is white, is cooped up in her room, medicated and half-mad "like one of them stitched figures in them old English tapestries".

His father, an Iraqi immigrant, fled to Syria when his son was born and Yahya is brought up mostly by his erratic uncle Sisi Gamal, who recites Islamic verses from a wheelbarrow at Edgware Road station. He feeds Yahya a slapdash diet of his "ad hoc Allah" and unravels the lessons he learns at school. "Hands over ears, he'd whisper to me, they will corrupt you, boy — ach! — confuse you."

Given the circumstances, Gunaratne suggests, it is hardly surprising that Yahya grows up angry and alone. He is restless and obsessive, but also clever and perceptive — finely tuned to a world that he wants no hand in. He feels neither British nor Iraqi, and most of this warped coming-of-age saga is a search for a sense of self that never materialises. Gunaratne, *above*, whose father emigrated from Sri Lanka aged 16, is no stranger to feeling unmoored. "Some people revel in unbelonging," the author said in an interview with The Guardian, "because if you're not wholly one thing or another you become a citizen of now, and as a writer I don't think there's anywhere as interesting to be."

In this grey area Yahya, like Gunaratne, finds solace in writing. After 9/11 he begins to take inflammatory comments from gruesome videos of tortured Iraqis and stitch them into poems that he recites at rallies: "I'd have these white bodies beaten faced/ down into their own shit and piss."

Yahya is brought up by his erratic uncle, who recites Islamic verses from a wheelbarrow

Yahya grows sick of the celebrity his poetic alter-ego, Al-Bayn, whips up and he escapes to the deserts of Syria, dimly aware that, deep down, he is probably searching for his father (his faith is conspicuously absent).

The final third is dizzying, almost surreal. He ends up in a self-serving community of stragglers from the war and when he is deported back to Britain he is informed that, in his absence, the words of the jihadist boy-poet have inspired a flurry of terror attacks.

Given all this, the reader would be forgiven for turning away with disgust, as his Mister does, but we are tugged along in the wake of Yahya's rhetoric. Gunaratne's achievement is to give literary shape to that which is often flatly judged as "evil", so it's a shame when the final few pages stray into tract-like sermonising.

Still, Gunaratne's conclusions are more teasingly ambiguous and finely wrought than the heavy-footed clamour of *In Our Mad and Furious City*, and I always like a novel that pulls you in one direction, then leaves you wondering how you got there.

Rereading Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe by Fannie Flagg

This is a warm tale that's as comforting as the Southern food stuffed in its pages. By Melissa Katsoulis

I have been flying the flag for Fannie for decades and love her novel *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* so much I've never dared watch the film in case it ruins the magical world of Idgie, Ruth, Sipsey and Big George. The novel — and all the comforting Southern food, songs and humour stuffed within its pages — consoles and inspires me when the chips are down.

Set in the 1920s and the 1980s (it was published in 1987), this witty and wild tale of love, death, freight trains and boiled hogs is told by old Ninny Threadgoode, who lives in an Alabama nursing home, and her visitor, Evelyn Couch, a menopausal housewife with a boring husband and a burgeoning sense of feminist fury.

Ninny looks back at the heyday of the small town of Whistle Stop, when the café, "only about four tables and a bunch of uncertain chairs", formed the warm heart of a community of disenfranchised black and white folk, who were never asked to pay for their meals when they couldn't and never had to celebrate Christmas alone. Whistle Stop was little more than a few houses by the side of the freight train tracks in Alabama when beautiful Ruth came to stay and fell in love with wild, passionate, huntin', shootin' and fishin' Idgie.

Idgie used to dress up pretty like the other girls until one day, aged ten, she suddenly "stood up and announced, 'I'm never going to wear another dress as long as I live!'" Before long the women are bringing up Ruth's little boy together and running the café with Sipsey in the kitchen and Big George manning the barbecue out the back.



Ruth (Mary-Louise Parker), Evelyn (Kathy Bates), Ninny (Jessica Tandy) and Idgie (Mary Stuart Masterson) in the 1991 film of the book

Through all the joys and tragedies of life — there's murder here and grief and too much whiskey, as well as fat babies and delicious dinners — they share good Southern food and fellowship with their community, despite getting in trouble for serving black customers alongside white ones. But Idgie won't be told what to do and when Klansmen and violent husbands come calling, they are no match for her fierce defence of the people she loves.

It's her hot-headed passion that keeps the plot unfolding, resulting in some surprisingly edge-of-seat moments: could she have anything to do with the missing person the police are asking about? And if so, where, in this tiny neighbourhood full of prying eyes, could she have hidden a body?

The lesbian relationship between Idgie and Ruth is written as unassumingly as it is accepted by the folk of Whistle Stop. When Idgie first claps eyes on serene, beautiful Ruth, Sipsey observes: "That ol' love bug done bit Idgie." And that's that.

It might not be a problem to be gay in the dreamy world of Whistle Stop, but sometimes it's hard to be a woman (did I mention that Flagg is bessies with Dolly Parton?). Evelyn is still suffering under the jackboot of sexism in the 1980s chapters.

At 48 she has never learnt to enjoy sex and is ashamed of her body and her anger. After trying various clubs, support groups and therapies ("too bored for Tupperware parties and too scared to look at her own vagina"), she creates a scintillating inner life where she is an avenging feminist superhero who pokes child molesters with cattle prods, hides tiny bombs in porn mags and forces Hollywood's leading men to play opposite women of their own age.

There's murder, grief and too much whiskey ... fat babies and delicious dinners

But in keeping with the warm world of Whistle Stop, she finds fulfilment in female friendship, a garden of beautiful roses and the church.

Like the best kind of country song, *Fried Green Tomatoes* is knowingly sentimental, but also inspirational. And if you're too busy to pick up the book, try the audio version read by the charming author, whose kindly voice will soothe your spirits just as her jucily crisp prose lifts them.

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3 (3) BBC Proms 2023 — *BBC Proms £8.99*
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6 (7) I'm Not as Well as I Thought I Was — **Ruby Wax** *Penguin Life £18.99*
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10 (—) The Flavour Thesaurus — **Niki Segnit** *Bloomsbury £20*

Waterstones THE NUMBER IN PARENTHESES REPRESENTS CHART POSITIONS LAST WEEK. DATA SUPPLIED BY WATERSTONES FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 20

audiobook of the week

The Story of the Forest **by Linda Grant, read by Anna Cordell, Hachette, 9hr 21min**

Like Little Red Riding Hood, 14-year-old Mina Mendel walks into a forest with a basket. It is Latvia in 1913, and she meets not a wolf but a group of young men who boast proudly that they are Bolsheviks, agents of the coming revolution. One man asks her to dance and this opens her eyes to the possibility of escaping the future her family assumes for her.

The often-altered story of what did or didn't happen in the forest is woven through Grant's wise, sometimes funny saga of Mina's long life. We follow her from her plans to emigrate to America with an indignant brother, their stalled progress in Liverpool where they settle into the Jewish community, to a more or less arranged marriage and the less conventional life of her daughter in London. As two world wars shake Europe, they begin to lose touch with their old world.

"Some people don't make it out of their times," Mina's daughter muses. "Or if they do, they just linger, maimed and useless, like a fly without its wings." Grant makes her characters talk from the heart, as does Anna Cordell's versatile and haunting narration.
Christina Hardyment

children's book of the week

A joyful tale of a boy and a dance contest. By Lucy Bannerman



One Chance Dance **(9+) by Efua Traoré, Chicken House, 322pp; £7.99**

"Nothing is ever useless." Jomi knows that. He loves repairing things, using the copper wires, magnets and other bits and pieces he finds among the cracked phones and broken electronics dumped outside his village. It's not so much a scrap heap as "a hill of treasures".

His mother has gone to Lagos hoping to earn enough money for them to start a new life, but her letters have stopped. When the bulldozers come, destroying the forest, he finds a bushbaby cowering in a calabash, as lost and homeless as he is. With the bushbaby "Ghost" on his shoulder, he decides to brave Lagos, the mega-city of 24 million, to find his mum. But how? Well, she never misses an episode of the talent contest *Lagos Let's Dance*. If he gets on the show, he reasons, she'll spot him and they will be reunited.



The best thing about *One Chance Dance* is that it pulls off so many showstopping moves while keeping its feet rooted in reality. Efua Traoré, *left*, a Nigerian-German author who grew up in Nigeria and who won the 2021 Times/Chicken House children's fiction prize for her debut novel, *Children of the Quicksands*, resists any *Slumdog Millionaire*-style schmaltz and the story is all the more joyful and uplifting for it.

Jomi joins a group of street kids led by Tanks, a small but mighty girl who teaches him how to sell mangos in traffic and keeps a (heartbreakingly short) list of all the "special" things that have happened to her. They form a dance crew, choreographing a routine to dazzle the judges — she "twists her waist slowly, bobbing her bum 'umlando style'" — but the challenges they face are totally realistic: what costumes will they make for their auditions? How will they pay for the bus fare?

Their dance has a message — "nothing and no one needs to be thrown away or abandoned … things can be picked up and fixed and cared for and made to shine again" — but will the security guards let this scrappy, scruffy troupe past the gates to share it? The finale is beautiful, heartfelt and cliché-free. A perfect ten.

Hugo Rifkind finds out how to be a boy

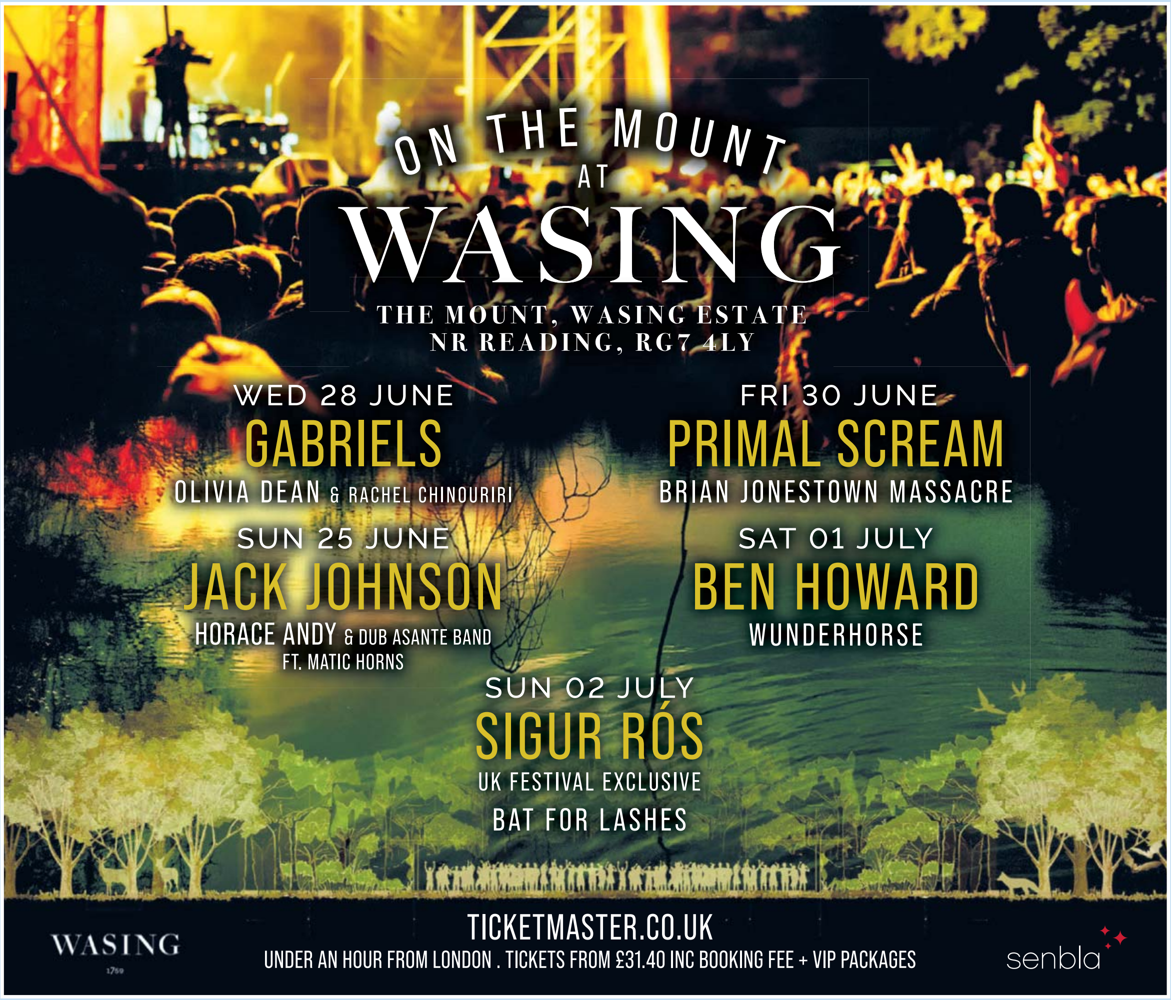


Hugo talks to Dr Ranj Singh about his new book *How to Be a Boy* and *Do It Your Own Way*, a guide to help boys look after their mental health and navigate the world of masculinity.

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Critic's choice

The Gallows Pole

Wed, BBC2, 9pm

It's time period dramas had a shake-up, but here Shane Meadows hasn't merely added profanities, he has taken the genre by its boots and turned it upside down.

The Gallows Pole, set in the 1760s in the Calder Valley, is earthier than a heap of compost and its dialogue is semi-improvised as if on a Yorkshire council estate. In this unmerrie England, where the textile industry is displaced by "behemothic machines", we meet society's downtrodden, notably David Hartley (Michael Socha), a saturnine runaway who staggers back into his village, blood pouring from him, after years away.

As he reconnects with his brother (Thomas Turgoose) and his brassic friends, a plan is hatched to counterfeit coins. The gang will be known as the Cragg Vale Coiners, and they really did exist.

The style of this three-parter may take a bit of work to adjust to — there is an edge of subversive northern wit and dream-like interludes. The title credits, certainly, are great.
James Jackson



Michael Socha, centre, in The Gallows Pole

Radio choice

Today

Mon-Fri, Radio 4, 6am (Sat, 7am)

Radio 4's detractors have celebrated its recent disappointing quarterly audience figures, which showed that *Today* had 792,000 fewer listeners — about 12 per cent of its audience — than in the same period the year before. Is the station a hotbed of pinko wokery that is putting off listeners in huge numbers?

Clearly, some people feel that way; there is a tone to its content and schedule that does not play well with everyone. I find that some of the banter between *Today*'s presenters feels forced and unnecessary, a sign that the programme wants to compete with the livelier exchanges on rival platforms such as LBC and Times Radio, which are snapping at its heels.

But the figures only serve to highlight a question recently raised by Andrew Marr: is impartiality a problem rather than a virtue? Marr said he felt shackled at the BBC — moving to LBC has liberated him.

Listeners have much more choice than they once did, with more energetic takes on the news. Editorial balance can be achieved by programming a range of voices and perspectives across the schedule. Radio 4, for all sorts of regulatory, political and cultural reasons, can't do that. And it is becoming a problem.
Ben Dowell

Podcast choice

The High Performance Podcast
Jake Humphrey and the psychologist Damian Hughes offer insights into becoming more successful, with "an intimate glimpse into the lives of high-achieving performers who have all excelled in their field". Now, where can I find a podcast that tells me to relax and put my feet up?
James Marriott

Best of the rest

Love to Love You, Donna Summer
Today, Sky Documentaries/Now, 9pm
Starting with the risqué vocal performance of *Love to Love You Baby*, this goes deep into Donna Summer's unconventional life, from disco queen to born-again Christian. On recording *I Feel Love*, she says: "I had the sense that I was floating."

Succession
Mon, Sky Atlantic/Now, 9pm
What can we expect from the last episode of the media saga? The Roys being gunned down by anti-capitalist protesters? Shiv, Kendall and Roman moving to Maui and living happily ever after? No chance. Sarah Snook, *left*, who plays Shiv, has said it will be "ambiguous". We can, of course, expect intense emotion and smartass insults.



Springwatch
Mon-Thu, BBC2, times vary
Chris Packham and the team return to the sounds of cuckoos and Dartford warblers, the main location being RSPB Arne in Dorset.

White House Plumbers
Tue, Sky Atlantic/Now, 9pm
A new retelling of the Watergate scandal that takes a farcical approach, with Woody Harrelson as Howard Hunt and Justin Theroux as Gordon Liddy bungling the Pentagon Papers leak, then cocking up the bugging of the Democratic National Committee offices.

Who Do You Think You Are?
Thu, BBC1, 9pm
The latest run of the genealogy mainstay begins with Andrew Lloyd Webber looking for the musical roots of his DNA. JJ

The best films

The Whale (15)
Prime Video
The Darren Aronofsky drama about an obese teacher polarised critics, but Brendan Fraser, *below*, won an Oscar.

Chimes at Midnight (U)
Today, Talking Pictures TV, 9.30pm
Orson Welles is the fat knight — opposite John Gielgud as Henry IV — in his radical adaptation of Shakespeare produced in 1965.



Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (15)
Sun, Channel 4, 11pm
From Martin McDonagh (*The Banshees of Inisherin*), a brutal, funny, tragic drama about a woman's quest for justice. Frances McDormand and Woody Harrelson star.

Let Him Go (15)
Mon, Film4, 9pm
Kevin Costner gets a bit Clint Eastwood as a rancher in this solid western-thriller. JJ



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Saturday 27 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice Love to Love You, Donna Summer

Sky Documentaries/Now, 9pm

This warm and ultimately very moving HBO profile of the enigmatic singer (who died in 2012) begins with one of the sultriest moments in all music: the opening to the song *Love to Love You Baby*. For years the singer's three daughters (Brooklyn, Amanda and Mimi) weren't aware the song that gives this film its title even existed. It seems they were sheltered from a lot of things that came with their mother's enormous fame. Brooklyn is this film's co-director (with Roger Ross Williams) and there are times when you feel that some problematic parts of Summer's life are slightly skated over, not least the controversy when the singer, a born-again Christian, made allegedly homophobic remarks at a concert in 1983 to the dismay of her gay following. For most of the time, however, this is an honest examination of the private world of a charismatic and complex person. Over the course of nearly two hours there is a rich array of home-movie footage and largely off-camera interviews with her children and husband Bruce Sudano, who was clearly devoted to her. The contrast between the vivacious disco queen on stage and the ordinary mother at home is striking and also strangely affecting, especially when the lung cancer that killed her takes hold. The accent here is on the personal at the expense of chronicling her artistic development. And pop aficionados intrigued by her collaboration with her mentor Giorgio Moroder (who wrote *Love to Love You Baby*) might feel short-changed. But any time spent with this fascinating, talented and, of course, imperfect woman is reward enough.
Ben Dowell



Prince Harry: Secrets of His Hollywood Life

Channel 5, 9.05pm

Another Saturday, another royal clip show, which clearly Channel 5 viewers cannot get enough of. Tonight it's all things Harry, with lots of footage of the exiled prince who has swapped Windsor for America's west coast and all the usual speculation from our talking heads. Is he living his best life? Or the one his mother never could? And could he ever return to the UK? As always, there are no actual answers and you could probably have come up with most of the insights yourself. **BD**

Annika

BBC1, 9.10pm

The adventures of Nicola Walker's Marine Homicide Unit detective DI Annika Strandhed continue with a body found on a boat in the Clyde. The vessel is called Valkyrie, and next to the dead man is an etched stone that the team think might have come from a jilted lover. So it's worth paying attention to Annika's trademark addresses to camera when she speaks of a potentially relevant Norse legend. Walker continues to be as mesmerising as ever, the radicalism of her fourth wall-breaking monologues belying the conventionally comfortable mix of detective-with-issues, beautiful scenery and death. **BD**

Afterglow

BBC4, 9.30pm/10.10pm

Ester Sand (Nina Ellen Odegaard) begins the latest double bill cuddling her two daughters and telling them why cancer patients like her have chemotherapy — and what it will do to her body. Nearby, her husband, Arild (*Vikings* star Thorbjorn Harr), is sobbing quietly in the shower. It is a moment that feels emblematic of the occasionally saccharine nature of this well-meaning Norwegian drama, but also the pain it is capable of confronting. The seven-part drama is also adept at portraying the everyday interactions of a family that is trying to pull together in terrible circumstances. **BD**

Later … with Jools Holland

BBC2, 10.10pm

Our man is back with more live music and chat. This week he welcomes the British vocalist Jessie Ware, who returns with tracks from her disco-infused fifth studio album, *That! Feels Good!* Also featuring this week is the Waeve — a musical collaboration between Blur's Graham Coxon and the vocalist Rose Elinor Dougall — and the Nottingham duo Sleaford Mods, fresh from a successful North American tour. Holland will also be talking to the drummer Stewart Copeland, whose new album uses an orchestra to rearrange hits by his old band the Police. **BD**

Films of the day

Casablanca (U, 1942)

BBC2,2pm

The wartime romance remains a benchmark in American cinema. Humphrey Bogart's world-weary expat Rick Blaine is one of his career-defining moments; Ingrid Bergman's Ilsa is equally iconic. Blaine is a former freedom fighter who runs a nightclub in Casablanca. At the beginning of the Second World War Rick's Café is the place to go to secure papers permitting transit to America. It's this black market that brings Ilsa, Rick's former love, back into his life. It is one of the most-quoted films, and that final line only came to the producer, Hal Wallis, weeks after completion, when he recalled Bogart to redub it over the last scene. Many of the actors who played the Nazis were German Jews who had escaped from Nazi Germany. (102min) **Wendy Ide**



A Little Chaos (12, 2014)

BBC4, 10.55pm

Welcome to Grand Garden Designs, set in the fabulous park of Versailles. This week's competitor is Madame Sabine de Barra, and her challenge is to build an outdoor ballroom with fountains and a touch of the seashore. There, with just a soupçon of licence, is the premise of *A Little Chaos*, directed by Alan Rickman, starring himself as Louis XIV, Kate Winslet as de Barra, *above*, and Matthias Schoenaerts as the French landscape designer André le Nôtre. This is a terrific trio and the film is sumptuously appointed, with romance blossoming in the shrubbery. De Barra's earthiness and honesty contrasts amusingly with the stuffy royal courts at the Louvre and Versailles. (117min) **Kevin Maher**

Catch up

No Escape
Paramount+

It's an intriguing start to a drama (based on Lucy Clarke's bestselling novel of the same name) — a boat adrift off the shores of Queensland, Australia, is boarded by a rescue team. The boat is deserted, and it looks as if whoever was there either left in a hurry or vanished into thin air. There is uneaten food and plates laid out on the table, while in the bedroom a door swings open with the words "I Confess" daubed on it in blood. The action shifts to Townsville where the English waitress Lana (*Tin Star*'s Abigail Lawrie, *left*) is brought in for questioning by the police, who think she might know something about events on board the Blue. A twisty four-part thriller ensues, with shades of Alex Garland's cult backpackers-in-peril novel *The Beach*. **Joe Clay**



Regional programmes

● **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 4.40pm** Legends of Welsh Sport: Jayne Ludlow. The story of how Jayne Ludlow transformed Welsh women's football (r) **5.10-5.40pm** Question of Sport. With Ethan Pinnock, Hollie Pearne-Webb, Richard Kilty and Tonia Couch (r)

● **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 5.35pm** Feed Yourself Fitter with Stephen Nolan. No-nonsense chef Brian McCann tempts the host with a seasonal platter (r) **6.05-6.35pm** Family Footsteps. The family delves further into the past to discover a shocking secret (r)

● **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 11.20pm** Sportscene: Premiership Highlights. Action from the concluding matches in the top half of the table (r) **12.20am** The Women's Football Show. Action from the final round of fixtures in the Women's Super League **1.10 FILM Beautiful Boy (2018) 3.05** Weather for the Week Ahead **3.10-6.00am** BBC News

● **STV As ITV1 except: 6.15-6.29pm** STV News **3.00-4.15am** Night Vision

● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** The Seven **7.15** The Edit **7.30** Sportscene: Premiership Highlights. Action from the concluding matches in the top half of the table **8.30** The Harbour. Billy Duguid volunteers for RNLI training. Last in the series (r) **9.00** Scot Squad. Singh and McKirdy turn firefighters to extinguish a dangerous inferno (r) **9.30** The Crow Road. Ashley takes another step forward in solving the mystery of Rory (r) **11.30** One More Tune. Glasgow rockers Uninvited pick their top tunes **11.45pm-Midnight** One More Tune. With Garthamlock soul star Joesef

● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw: Og y Draenog Hapus (r) **6.10** Jamborî (r) **6.20** Pablo (r) **6.35** Y Brodyr Coala (r) **6.45** Kim a Cet a Twrch (r) **7.00** Sali Mali (r) **7.05** Digbi Draig (r) **7.15** Gwdihw (r) **7.30** Sion y Chef (r) **7.45** Deian a Loli (r) **8.00** Siwrne Ni (r) **8.30** Oi! Osgar (r) **9.10** Bernard (r) **9.25** Bwystfil (r) **9.35** Gwrach y Rhibyn (r) **10.00** Nôl i'r Gwersyll (r) **11.00** Codi Pac (r) **11.30** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer (r) **12.00** Ffermio (r) **12.30pm** Yn y Ffram (r) **1.30** Y Fets (r) **2.30** Colleen Ramsey: Bywyd a Bwyd (r) **3.00** Garddio a Mwy (r) **3.30** Hen Dy Newydd (r) **4.30** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **5.00** Ar Werth (r) **5.25** Ar Werth (r) **5.50** Teulu'r Castell (r) **6.45** Pen/Campwyr (r) **7.15** News **7.30** Priodas Pum Mil (r) **8.30** Welsh Whisperer: Ni'n Teithio Nawr! (r) **9.00** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia. Action from the 20th and penultimate stage **9.45** Yn y Lwp. Musician Lwp's recent music content (r) **10.15** Gwesty Aduniad (r) **11.15-11.50** Curadur (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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Saturday 27

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. Matt Tebbutt is joined by Bob Mortimer **11.30** Mary Berry: Love to Cook (r) **12.00** Football Focus. A look ahead to the final round of fixtures in the Premier League **1.00pm** BBC News; Weather **1.15** Bargain Hunt. From Liverpool's St George's Hall (r) **2.00** Live MOTD: Women's Super League. Coverage of a match from the final round of fixtures, as the final positions are confirmed (Kick-off **2.30**) **4.40** Garden Rescue. Makeovers in Cardiff and Exeter (r) **5.40** BBC News **5.50** BBC Regional News; Weather **6.00** Michael McIntyre's The Wheel. With Alison Hammond, James Martin, Dianne Buswell, Steve Redgrave, Rachel Parris, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen and Bash the Entertainer (r)



Nicola Walker in Annika (9.10pm)

7.00 **Blankety Blank** Bradley Walsh hosts the revival of the comedy quiz show (7/10) (r)

7.30 **Pointless Celebrities** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the general knowledge quiz, with contestants including John Thomson, Nathan Bryon and Andrew Hunter

8.20 **Casualty** Faith's resolve is tested when she finds herself in desperate need of painkillers after being bitten by a snake that is loose in the hospital

9.10 **Annika** When a body is found on a boat in the Clyde, the case takes the team to the Isle of Bute. Evidence points to a jilted lover, but a darker secret comes to light as the team investigate. **See Viewing Guide** (2/6)

10.00 **BBC News** followed by Weather

10.20 **The 1975 x Radio 1's Big Weekend** The 1975 take to the stage at Dundee's Camperdown Country Park amidst their world tour, performing songs from their five number one albums

11.20 **The Women's Football Show** The final round of Women's Super League fixtures, including Liverpool v Manchester United and Arsenal v Aston Villa

12.10am MOTD Top 10: Alan & Micah's All-Time Premier League Team. Alan Shearer and Micah Richards pick their all-time team **12.40** FILM **Beautiful Boy (15, 2018)** Drama starring Timothée Chalamet **2.35** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.40** BBC News

BBC2

6.35am Hey Duggee (r) **6.50** Supertato (r) **7.00** Shaun the Sheep (r) **7.10** Dennis & Gnasher Unleashed! (r) **7.20** Boy Girl Dog Cat Mouse Cheese (r) **7.30** The Deep (r) **7.55** Odd Squad (r) **8.05** Game on Grandparents (r) **8.30** One Zoo Three (r) **8.50** Newsround (r) **9.00** Blue Peter (r) **9.30** Deadly Predators (r) **10.00** Pooch Perfect (r) **11.00** Animals Behaving Badly (r) **12.00** Family Cooking Showdown (r) **1.00pm** Food & Drink (r) **1.30** Ingrid Bergman: Talking Pictures. A profile (r) **2.00** FILM **Casablanca (U, 1942)** **See Film Choice** (b/w) **3.40** Ancient Invisible Cities (r) **4.40** Flog It! (r) **5.35** Celebrity Antiques Road Trip (r) **6.35** Hidden Treasures of the National Trust. The restoration of Paul McCartney's childhood home (r)



The Waeve are on Later (10.10pm)

7.35 **Dad's Army** The platoon takes two prisoners (4/6) (b/w) (r)

8.10 **RHS Chelsea Flower Show** The sights and sounds of the famous horticultural event. Last in the series

9.10 **Duran Duran at the BBC** A celebration of appearances by the band on the BBC, with songs including *Planet Earth, Girls on Film, Hungry Like the Wolf, Rio,* and *Is There Something I Should Know?* (r)

10.10 **Later... with Jools Holland** Featuring Jessie Ware, Dave Okumu, Olivia Dean, the Waeve and Sleaford Mods. **See Viewing Guide** (2/6)

10.55 **Duran Duran: A Night In** Simon Le Bon, Nick Rhodes, John Taylor and Roger Taylor sit back to watch and talk through personally-selected clips that have inspired them across their career (r)

11.55 **Duran Duran: Radio 2 in Concert** Highlights (r)

12.55am Colin from Accounts (r) **1.25-3.10** FILM **Papadopoulos & Sons (15, 2012)** A Greek millionaire loses everything in a financial crisis, and is forced to help his brother run a fish and chip shop. Comedy with Stephen Dillane and Georgia Groome

ITV1

6.00am CITV **8.25** ITV News **8.30** Oti Mabuse's Breakfast Show. With Judi Love and Lemar **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. With Mick Hucknall **11.35** John and Lisa's Weekend Kitchen. John Torode and Lisa Faulkner demonstrate their takes on takeaway favourites **12.35pm** James Martin's American Adventure (r) **1.40** ITV News; Weather **1.50** In for a Penny (r) **2.25** Live Gallagher Premiership Rugby Union: Saracens v Sale Sharks (Kick-off **3.00**). Hugh Woozencroft presents coverage of the final, which comes from Twickenham **5.30** You've Been Framed! (r) **6.00** ITV News; Weather **6.15** Regional News; Weather **6.30** Celebrity Catchphrase. Game show with Krishnan Guru-Murthy, Lesley Joseph and Nathan Bryon (r)



Ron Perlman is Hellboy (10.20pm)

7.30 **In for a Penny** Stephen Mulhern sets challenges to members of the public in Cardiff (6/7)

8.00 **Britain's Got Talent** Ant and Dec host as more performers take to the stage in London and Manchester to try to impress the judges and secure their place in the live-semi-finals

9.05 **The 1% Club** Quiz hosted by Lee Mack in which the questions are all about logic and common sense, with 100 contestants in every show having a chance of winning up to £100,000 (6/8)

10.00 **ITV News**

10.20 FILM **Hellboy (12, 2004)** A Nazi experiment lands the Allies with a visitor from another dimension in the form of a bright-red demon. A US government agency fosters the little devil and he grows up to be its crucial weapon against the forces of darkness — but the re-emergence of the sinister wizard Rasputin proves a challenge even for him. Action fantasy starring Ron Perlman, John Hurt and Selma Blair

12.30am English Football League Highlights. The Championship play-off final between Luton Town and Coventry City at Wembley Stadium (r) **1.20** Teleshopping **3.00** Unwind with ITV **4.15** Love Your Weekend with Alan Titchmarsh (r)

Channel 4

6.10am Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **7.25** The King of Queens (r) **8.45** Frasier (r) **10.10** The Simpsons (r) **12.05pm** FILM **Evolution (PG, 2001)** Sci-fi comedy **2.10** Four in a Bed (r) **2.40** Four in a Bed (r) **3.10** Four in a Bed. From the Mode Lytham Hotel (r) **3.40** Four in a Bed. The final visit is to Villa Farm Cottage in Lincolnshire (r) **4.10** Four in a Bed. The B&B owners meet for the last time (r) **4.45** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. Three daughters and their mother create a straw bale house oozing with rustic charm (r) **5.50** Channel 4 News **6.20** Monaco Grand Prix, The Legend. Prince Albert of Monaco presents the history of one of the world's best-known race circuits, nestled in the narrow streets of a country half the size of New York's Central Park



Thriller sequel The Equalizer 2 (9pm)

7.30 **Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights** Action from the battle for pole position in the sixth round of the season, held at the Circuit de Monaco. Charles Leclerc of Ferrari qualified fastest here last year, with his teammate Carlos Sainz Jr joining him on the front of the grid. Steve Jones presents, with analysis from David Coulthard, Mark Webber, Billy Monger and Ariana Bravo

9.00 FILM **The Equalizer 2 (15, 2018)** Robert McCall divides his time between cab driving and looking after a young man who is mixing with a bad crowd. When a CIA friend is murdered, the former black ops agent sets out to avenge her death, and winds up fighting for survival in his hurricane-battered home town. Action thriller, starring Denzel Washington, Pedro Pascal and Ashton Sanders

11.20 FILM **American Made (15, 2017)** A pilot is recruited to act as a courier for the CIA in the 1980s, while also trafficking cocaine. Fact-based comedy drama starring Tom Cruise and Domhnall Gleeson

1.25am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) **2.15** Couples Come Dine with Me. Sheffield and Rotherham couples compete for the cash prize of £1,000 (r) **3.10** Hollyoaks Omnibus (r) **5.20** Escape to the Château (r) **5.25** Great British History Hunters (r) (SL)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **10.00** The Smurfs **10.10** SpongeBob SquarePants (r) **10.25** Entertainment News on 5 **10.30** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (r) **11.25** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (r) **12.25pm** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Documentary following Brits who moved to Spain for sun and a low-cost life (r) **1.25** FILM **Rio Bravo (PG, 1959)** A sheriff and his drunken deputy make a courageous stand against hired guns threatening to tear apart a peace-loving town. Western starring John Wayne and Dean Martin **4.15** FILM **Operation: Daybreak (15, 1975)** Fact-based Second World War drama about the killing of leading Nazi Reinhard Heydrich and the search for the assassins. Starring Timothy Bottoms, Martin Shaw and Joss Ackland **6.35** 5 News Weekend



Prince Harry's life in the US (9.05pm)

6.40 **Last of the Summer Wine: 50 Years of Laughs** A celebration of the comedy that ran from 1973 to 2010 (r)

8.05 **Windsor Castle: Upstairs, Downstairs** Behind-the-scenes tales of the royal residence, with Kate Williams exploring some of the more gruesome stories of palace history, including the death of Princess Charlotte in 1817 (1/8) (r)

9.05 **Prince Harry: Secrets of His Hollywood Life** A look at the Duke of Sussex's new life in America, where he has spent the last four years attempting to live a life free from stress and the trappings of his royal upbringing. **See Viewing Guide**

10.05 **Funniest Royal Cock-Ups** Gyles Brandreth narrates a selection of mishaps involving members of the royal family, including Prince Harry falling off his horse during a polo match and Prince Charles recreating the Hot Stuff routine from *The Full Monty* (r)

12.00 World's Most Expensive Celeb Break Ups (r) **1.00am** Teleshopping **3.00** The Yorkshire Vet (r) **4.45** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News **5.40** Pip and Posy (SL) **5.45** Thomas: Big World! Big Adventures! (SL)

Saturday 27 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview FS Freesat



Predator
Arnold Schwarzenegger takes the lead role in the 1987 action thriller
ITV4, 11.35pm

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am Cristo
7.00 David Bull
10.00 Peter Cardwell The latest news from Parliament, featuring interviews with political heavyweights
1.00pm Trisha Goddard The broadcaster takes a look through the week's leading stories and gives her opinion on the social dilemmas making the news
4.00 Kevin O'Sullivan The host tackles the big stories of the day
7.00 Saturday Night Talkaway with Andre Walker The host offers his unique take on the week's top stories
9.00 That Was The Woke That Was Andre Walker quizzes the panel on the wokest stories of the week
10.00-1.00am Live: James Whale The presenter reacts to the big stories of the day

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm EastEnders
7.30 EastEnders
8.00 EastEnders Ben struggles to accept Lola's prognosis
8.30 EastEnders
9.00 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Gaz starts binge eating (8/14)
9.30 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Jonny and Gaz attend Janet's antenatal class (9/14)
10.00 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Gaz makes a startling confession (10/14)
10.30 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Jonny feels neglected by Janet (11/14)
11.00 I Kissed a Boy Mikey makes a decision that sends shockwaves through the masseria (3/8)
11.45-12.30am I Kissed a Boy Dannii Minogue shakes things up by welcoming three single men into the masseria (4/8)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Himalaya with Michael Palin Michael's journey takes him to Bhutan, where he shares drinks in the capital, Thimphu, with two of the King's cousins (6/6)
8.00 Michael Palin Meets Jan Morris The Python speaks to fellow travel writer Morris
8.30 Battle for the Himalayas: The Fight to Film Everest How film-makers used the Himalayan mountains for propaganda (4/6)
9.30 Afterglow Jorund develops health anxiety and Ester learns what chemotherapy involves. In Norwegian. **See Viewing Guide** (3/7)
10.10 Afterglow Ester begins chemotherapy. In Norwegian. **See Viewing Guide** (4/7)
10.55-12.45am FILM A Little Chaos (12, 2014) Period drama starring Kate Winslet. **See Film Choice**

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz are taking on a 1984 Opel Manta GTE owned by a former amateur rally driver (3/10)
7.55 Great British Dog Walks with Phil Spencer The property guru and German short-haired pointer puppy Luna take to the countryside. Phil catches up with some friends, starting with SAS leader Billy Billingham (1/3)
9.00 24 Hours in A&E A man is rushed to hospital after severely dislocating and fracturing his ankle playing football with friends
10.00 24 Hours in A&E A 78-year-old man has difficulty breathing after breaking several ribs
11.05-12.10am 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown With Richard Ayoade, Rob Beckett and Claudia Winkleman (5/7)

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.45pm True Blood Sookie tries to thwart Marnie's plan to bewitch Bill, Eric and Pam into a suicide march. Sam gets even with alpha werewolf Marcus, and Alcide deals with Debbie's treachery (11/12) (R)
7.50 Game of Thrones Tywin counsels the king, Daenerys exchanges gifts with a slave lord outside Yunkai, Melisandre reveals a secret to Gendry, and Brienne faces a formidable foe at Harrenhal (7/10) (R)
9.00 Game of Thrones Daenerys meets the captains of the Second Sons mercenary company, Davos demands to see proof of Melisandre's power and there is a wedding in King's Landing. Emilia Clarke stars (8/10) (R)
10.05 Game of Thrones (9/10) (R)
11.10-12.15am Game of Thrones Fantasy drama (10/10) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

6.50pm FILM Tina (15, 2021) A celebration of Tina Turner's life and career, featuring contributions from the Grammy Award-winning artist, as well as friends, family and fans including Oprah Winfrey and Angela Bassett
9.00 FILM Love to Love You, Donna Summer (12, 2023) Profile of the iconic artist, following her career from the avant-garde music scene in Germany, to the glitter and bright lights of dance clubs in New York. **See Viewing Guide**
11.30 FILM Hitsville: The Making of Motown (12, 2019) Rare performances, interviews and rarely seen footage come together to paint a picture of the history and origins of Motown
1.40am-3.40 The End of the Storm Documentary

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

6.45pm FILM Shanghai Knights (12, 2003) Martial arts comedy sequel starring Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson and Aidan Gillen
9.00 FILM Fast & Furious 8 (12, 2017) Street racing criminal Dominic Toretto is recruited by a terrorist, setting him at odds with his old gang. Action adventure sequel starring Vin Diesel, Charlize Theron and Dwayne Johnson
11.40-12.10am Family Guy Lois discovers that she has an estranged brother

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

5.05pm Foyle's War Foyle is drawn into the world of espionage
7.05 Midsomer Murders A boxer's successful world title bid stirs up hidden passions among the residents of Midsomer Morchard
9.00 Midsomer Murders A planning dispute leads to murder after a woman suspects her neighbours are involved in a money-making development scam
11.00-1.05am Agatha Christie's Marple The reading of a will leads to murder (1/4)

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

7.05pm FILM 633 Squadron (PG, 1964) Second World War drama starring Cliff Robertson
9.00 An Audience with Billy Connolly The comedian entertains a crowd of famous faces
10.05 Great Racehorses
10.30 English Football League Highlights Action from the Championship play-off final
11.35-1.50am FILM Predator (15, 1987) An alien stalks the jungles of central America. Action thriller starring Arnold Schwarzenegger

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm The Big Bang Theory Raj and Howard clash over a show at the planetarium
7.30 The Big Bang Theory Sheldon tries to bond with Amy's father
8.00 The Great British Bake Off: The Winners The second of two specials, focusing on the five most recent winners
9.00 Celebrity Gogglebox The Baby, One Question and Million Pound Pawn are appraised (5/6)
10.00 Gogglebox
11.05-12.05am Gogglebox

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

6.40pm Would I Lie to You?
7.20 Would I Lie to You?
8.00 Not Going Out Hallowe'en Special Lee and Lucy take the children out trick or treating
8.50 Not Going Out Christmas Special: Driving Home for Christmas Lee and Lucy suffer an eventful Christmas Eve
9.50 Mock the Week
10.30 QI Stephen Fry hosts
11.10 QI Comedy panel game
11.55-12.55am Have I Got a Bit More News for You

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.00pm The Brokenwood Mysteries A young actor collapses and dies during a performance
8.00 Father Brown The sleuthing clergyman uncovers secrets, hypocrisy and murder at a finishing school for young ladies. Mystery, starring Mark Williams
9.00-12.10am Miss Marple Feature-length episode. A couple wake up to find a strangled corpse on the hearthrug in their library, and turn to neighbour Miss Marple to investigate. Joan Hickson stars

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Great Continental Railway Journeys Michael Portillo travels through Germany (3/5)
8.00 Great Continental Railway Journeys Michael Portillo explores Switzerland (4/5)
9.00 Great Continental Railway Journeys Travelling through Holland, Belgium and France (5/5)
10.00 One Foot in the Grave
10.40 One Foot in the Grave
11.20 One Foot in the Grave
12.00-1.00am Bangers and Cash Documentary (7/8)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.35pm D-Day 360 The battlefield of Omaha Beach is brought to life
7.40 Three Days in June: The Story of the D-Day Forecast How the launch of D-Day was determined by a remote station in Ireland
8.50 Hunting for Klaus Barbie The story of Klaus Barbie, head of the Gestapo in Lyon in 1943-44
10.05 Killing Escobar The story of a Scottish mercenary hired to kill drug lord Pablo Escobar
12.00-1.15am Three Days in June: The Story of the D-Day Forecast

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm The Rolling Stones: Charlie Is My Darling Extended cut of Peter Whitehead's film documenting the band's gigs in Belfast and Dublin in 1965
8.25 The Stones in the Park The Rolling Stones' 1969 Hyde Park concert dedicated to the memory of the band's guitarist Brian Jones, who had died two days previously.
9.30 Days of Rage: The Rolling Stones' Road to Altamont
11.45-1.30am BB King: Live in Concert at the Royal Albert Hall

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm UFOs Declassified Investigating the sighting of a UFO by a pilot in 1957 (6/6)
8.00 UFOs Declassified An insight into instances in which military pilots have spotted unusual aircraft in the sky (5/6)
9.00 History's Greatest Myths How conflict has reshaped nations and devastated generations
10.00 History's Greatest Mysteries Revisiting the assassination of US President Abraham Lincoln (3/4)
12.00-12.30am Storage Wars

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

6.30pm Hawaii Five-0 A singer is killed at an Elvis convention
7.30 Enter the Spider-Verse: A Spider-Man Special
8.00 Flintoff: Lord of the Fries Andrew Flintoff takes part in a treasure hunt (5/6)
9.00 FILM Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (12, 2011) Fantasy thriller sequel with Nicolas Cage
11.00 A League of Their Own: European Road Trip (6/6)
12.00-1.05am Last King of the Cross Fact-based drama (2/10)

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation A cockpit voice recorder solves the mystery behind a crash
8.00 Air Crash Investigation A plane crash in the Himalayas
9.00 Air Crash Investigation Examining a cargo jet that crashed in the Swedish Arctic
10.00 Air Crash Investigation Experts fail to find a bomb when a Taiwanese plane explodes
11.00 Air Crash Investigation
12.00-1.00am Air Crash Investigation Documentary

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Deadliest Catch Linda gets too close to danger
8.00 Arctic Ice Railroad
9.00 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail
10.00 Viagra: The Little Blue Pill That Changed the World
11.00 How the Universe Works
12.00-2.00am Alaska: Homestead Rescue Life off-the-grid

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm The Office (US)
8.00 Young Rock (12/13)
8.30 Young Rock (13/13)
9.00 Curb Your Enthusiasm (3/10)
9.35 Curb Your Enthusiasm (4/10)
10.15 Bill Maher: Live From Oklahoma A stand-up show
11.30 Rovers (1/6)
12.00-12.30am Rovers (2/6)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

5.40pm FILM Little Nicky (12, 2000) Comedy fantasy
7.15 FILM R.I.P.D (12, 2013) Fantasy adventure, with Ryan Reynolds
9.00 FILM Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story (12, 2004) Sporting comedy with Ben Stiller
10.45-12.30am FILM Jackass: The Movie (18, 2002) Comedy

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm dinnerladies
7.40 dinnerladies
8.20 dinnerladies
9.00 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV
9.40 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV
10.20 Chewing Gum
10.50 Chewing Gum
11.25 Inside No 9
12.00-12.35am Inside No 9

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm My Family Triple bill
9.00 Gavin & Stacey
9.40 Gavin & Stacey
10.20 Gavin & Stacey
11.00 Stacey Dooley on the Psych Ward Documentary
12.00-1.00am Stacey Dooley Investigates: Second Chance Sex Offenders Documentary

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Death in Paradise (2/2) Tragedy strikes close to home (6/8)
8.00 Inspector George Gently The adopted child of a middle-class couple is kidnapped (3/4)
10.00 Death in Paradise Richard Poole meets a sticky end (1/8)
11.20-12.20am My Life Is Murder Crime drama (4/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

12midday Live SPFL: Celtic v Aberdeen (Kick-off **12.30**)
2.30pm Live WSL A match from the final round of fixtures
4.30 Live EFL: Coventry City v Luton Town (Kick-off **4.45**). Coverage from Wembley Stadium
8.00 Live Fight Night: Lawrence Okolie v Chris Billam-Smith
11.00 Live LPGA Tour Golf: The Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play presented by MGM Rewards
1.30am-4.00 Live NBA Basketball: Miami Heat v Boston Celtics

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

10.30am Soccer AM
12.00 PL: The Big Interview
12.30 Premier League Preview
1.00 Inside the WSL
1.30pm Live WSL A match from the final round of fixtures
5.30 Premier League Preview
6.00 David James: The One and Only Documentary
7.30 Drink It In: The Rise of Man City Documentary
8.30 The Tyler Archives
10.00 Premier League Icons
10.30-1.00am PL Retro



Coventry City's Viktor Gyokeres faces Luton Town at Wembley Stadium (Sky Main Event, 4.30pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

7.15am Best of T20 Blast Finals Day A look back at some of the best ever T20 Blast finals
7.30 IPL
11.40 IPL Another chance to see the Eliminator encounter
3.50 IPL Another chance to see the second qualifier match
8.00pm IPL Action from the first qualifier encounter
9.00 IPL Another chance to see the Eliminator encounter
10.00 IPL
11.00-12.00 IPL

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

7.30am-10.30 Live AFL: Geelong Cats v GWS Giants (Bounce-up **7.35**) From GMHBA Stadium
2.00pm-5.45 Live Gallagher Premiership Rugby Union: Saracens v Sale Sharks (Kick-off **3.00**) Coverage of the final from Twickenham
6.30 Live BT Sport Fight Night Luis Alberto Lopez v Michael Conlan
11.30-1.15am BT Sport Films
4.00-7.00 Live AFL: Richmond Tigers v Port Adelaide Power (Bounce-up **4.10**)

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

12.30pm-2.30 Live Hockey: Great Britain v India (Push-back **12.40**)
3.00 Live Hockey: Belgium v China (Push-back **3.10**)
5.00 Live Serie A Football from Italy's top division
7.00 Premier League Preview
7.30 Live Serie A Football from Italy's top division
9.45 Serie A
11.45 BT Sport Reload
12.00-3.30am Live MLB: Cleveland Guardians v St Louis Cardinals (Start-time **12.15**)

Saturday 27

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows (12, 2016) Action adventure sequel starring Megan Fox and Will Arnett **1.15pm How to Train Your Dragon (PG, 2010)** Animated fantasy with the voices of Jay Baruchel and Gerard Butler **3.10 Transformers (12, 2007)** Sci-fi action adventure with Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox **6.10 Independence Day (12, 1996)** Sci-fi adventure starring Will Smith and Bill Pullman **9.00 Paul (15, 2011)** Sci-fi comedy with Simon Pegg **11.05-1.20am World War Z (15, 2013)** Zombie thriller starring Brad Pitt and Mireille Enos

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am A Stranger in Town (12, 1957) Crime drama with Alex Nicol and Anne Paige **7.25 Come Back Peter (U, 1952)** Comedy starring Patrick Holt and Peter Hammond **9.00 The Adventures of Robin Hood** Adventure series **9.30 The Adventures of Sir Lancelot** Arthurian adventure **10.00 One Hour to Zero (PG, 1977)** Adventure starring Toby Bridge and Jayne Collins **11.05 The Buccaneers 11.35 The Phantom Empire 12.00 The Time Travellers (PG, 1964)** Sci-fi adventure starring Preston Foster **1.40pm The Outer Limits 2.40 One Million Years BC (PG, 1966)** Prehistoric adventure starring Raquel Welch and John Richardson **4.40 Sword of Sherwood Forest (U, 1960)** Robin Hood adventure starring Richard Greene and Peter Cushing **6.20 The Lavender Hill Mob (U, 1951)** Ealing comedy starring Alec Guinness **8.00 Maigret 9.00 The Four Just Men 9.30 Falstaff: Chimes At Midnight (U, 1965)** Drama starring Orson Welles **11.50-1.35am Carry On Columbus (PG, 1992)** Seafaring comedy starring Jim Dale and Julian Clary

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am GREAT! Movie News 9.10 Justice Unleashed (PG, 2017) Thriller starring Emily Rose and Emily Tennant **11.05 Godzilla (PG, 1998)** Monster adventure remake starring Matthew Broderick **1.45pm Street Fighter (12, 1994)** Action adventure starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Raul Julia **3.50 Emma (U, 1996)** Drama starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Jeremy Northam **6.15 Hook (U, 1991)** Adventure starring Robin Williams



Shailene Woodley stars (Sky Cinema Premiere, 8pm)

9.00 Black Hawk Down (15, 2001) Fact-based military drama starring Josh Hartnett, Eric Bana and Ewan McGregor **11.50-1.40am The Take (15, 2016)** Thriller starring Idris Elba and Richard Madden

TCM Movies
SKY 315

8.00am Law of the Panhandle (PG, 1950) Western starring Johnny Mack Brown and Jane Adams **9.15 To Trap a Spy (PG, 1966)** Spy thriller with Robert Vaughn and David McCallum **11.10 One of Our Spies is Missing (U, 1966)** Spy adventure starring Robert Vaughn and David McCallum **1.05pm The Helicopter Spies (PG, 1967)** Spy adventure starring Robert Vaughn **3.00 Sierra Passage (PG, 1950)** Western starring Wayne Morris and Lola Albright **4.45 The Desperate Hours (PG, 1955)** Thriller starring Humphrey Bogart, Martha Scott and Fredric March **7.05 The Plunderers (PG, 1960)** Western starring Jeff Chandler and John Saxon **9.00 The Dead Pool (18, 1988)** Action thriller sequel starring Clint Eastwood **10.55-1.15am Criminal (15, 2016)** Thriller starring Kevin Costner and Gary Oldman

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

2.05pm Alone Together (15, 2022) Drama starring Katie Holmes and Jim Sturgess **4.00 Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG, 2022)** Musical comedy starring Javier Bardem **6.00 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022)** Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville and Isabelle Huppert **8.00 To Catch A Killer (15, 2023)** Premiere. A Baltimore police officer is recruited by the FBI to help profile and track down a disturbed individual terrorising the city. Thriller starring Shailene Woodley, Ben Mendelsohn and Rosemary Dunsmore **10.00-11.55pm Hallowe'en Ends (18, 2022)** Horror sequel starring Jamie Lee Curtis

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

6.00am Chloe Tilley and Calum Macdonald with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Hugo Rifkind **1.00pm** Alexis Conran **4.00** Ayesha Hazarika **7.00** My Cultural Week with Mariella Frostrup **8.00** Stories of Our Times **8.30** Best of Matt Chorley. Highlights **9.00** Highlights from Times Radio **10.00** Darryl Morris **1.00am** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

5.00am Radio 2 in Concert (r) **6.00** Sounds of the 60s with Tony Blackburn **8.00** Dermot O'Leary **10.00** Claudia Winkleman **1.00pm** Pick of the Pops **3.00** Rylan **6.00** Liza Tarbuck **8.00** Sounds of the 80s with Gary Davies **10.00** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton **12.00** TBA **1.00am** Dance Sounds of the 90s **2.00** The Birth of Sparks: From Beach Boys to Blighty (r) **3.00** Things You Didn't Know About Pop **4.00** Radio 2 in Concert (r)

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

7.00am Breakfast
9.00 Record Review Building a Library features Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*
11.45 Music Matters Tom Service talks to the conductor and composer Iván Fischer
12.30pm This Classical Life Jess Gillam is joined by the violinist Roberts Balanas (r)
1.00 Inside Music Double bassist Malachy Robinson picks a selection of pieces
3.00 Sound of Cinema Matthew Sweet is joined by David Lynch, who talks about his collaborations with Angelo Badalamenti, who died at the end of last year
4.00 Music Planet Kathryn Tickell is joined by acclaimed Senegalese kora player Seckou Keita to swap tracks
5.00 J to Z Jumoké Fashola presents concert highlights from alto saxophonist Lakecia Benjamin, while keyboardist Surya Botofasina shares his musical inspirations
6.30 Opera on 3 A New York Metropolitan Opera production of Terence Blanchard's *Champion*, with Ryan Speedo Green starring as boxer Emile Griffith, with Eric Owens as Griffith's older self
10.00 New Music Show A performance by the JACK Quartet at London's Wigmore Halld, including *Contritus* by Caleb Burhans and John Zorn's *Necronomicon*
12.00 Freeness Corey Mwamba picks improvised music and free jazz that escapes categorisation
1.00am Through the Night (r)

Today's pick

John Finnemore's Souvenir Programme
Radio 4, 2.45pm

A welcome one-off return, after a two-year hiatus, of this delightful sketch show where John Finnemore, *right*, is joined by his cast regulars, including Margaret Cabourn-Smith, Simon Kane and the composer Susannah Pearse, who plays piano. A deft and witty array of sketches opens with a husband explaining to his suspicious spouse that he does not in fact work as a



data analyst but has led a rather unusual double life. This is followed by a brilliantly surreal encounter between the golfer Rory McIlroy and a rather peculiar member of the public. Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Please Protect Abraham An inquest is announced (r)
6.00 News and Papers
6.07 Ramblings (r)
6.30 Farming Today This Week Agriculture updates
7.00 Today
9.00 Saturday Live
10.00 Your Place or Mine Adrian Chiles makes the case for Murter, Croatia
10.30 The Kitchen Cabinet
11.00 The Week in Westminster Updates
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent
12.01pm (LW) Shipping
12.04 Money Box
12.30 The News Quiz (r)
1.00 News
1.10 Any Questions? (r)
2.00 Any Answers? Phone-in
2.45 John Finnemore's Souvenir Programme John returns with a one-off edition of the sketch show. **See Choice**
3.30 A Living Leg-End (r)
4.00 Weekend Woman's Hour
5.00 Saturday PM
5.30 Political Thinking with Nick Robinson
5.54 Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.15 Loose Ends Clive Anderson and Andrew O'Neill are joined by Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Simon Day, Joseph Coelho and Dr Ranj Singh
7.00 Profile
7.15 This Cultural Life
8.00 Archive on 4: Marvel v DC Comics — Contest of the Champions Simon Hollis explores the decades-long rivalry between the comics
9.00 Stone (1/5) (r)
9.45 Short Works (r)
10.00 News
10.15 Screenshot (r)
11.00 Round Britain Quiz (r)
11.30 Uncanny Danny Robins investigates reports of supernatural activity
12.00 Midnight News
12.15am Whose Truth Is It Anyway? Literature (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am 5 Live Boxing **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Patrick Kielty **11.00** Fighting Talk **12.00** 5 Live Sport **3.00pm** 5 Live Sport: Rugby Union: Saracens v Sale (Kick-off 3.00) **5.00** 5 Live Sport **6.00** 6-0-6 **8.00** Stephen Nolan **10.00** 5 Live Boxing **12.00** Newscast **1.00am** Edward Adoo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

6.00am Breakfast **9.00** GameDay Warm Up **1.00pm** Box Park from Wembley Way **3.30** Championship Play-off Final. From Wembley Stadium (Kick-off 4.45) **7.00** The Boot Room **9.00** Fight Night **12.00** A talkSPORT Special **1.00am** Extra Time with Martin Kelner

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am Cristo **7.00** David Bull **10.00** Peter Cardwell **1.00pm** Trisha Goddard **4.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **7.00** Saturday Night Talkaway **9.00** That Was The Woke That Was **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Martin Kelner

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

6.00am Paul O'Grady Stands Up for Liverpool **9.00** Benny Hill Time **9.30** Whack-O! **10.00** Paper Cuts **11.00** Paul O'Grady Stands Up for Liverpool **2.00pm** Benny Hill Time **2.30** Whack-O! **3.00** Paper Cuts **4.00** The Midnight House **4.45** Someone Like You **5.00** Paul O'Grady Stands Up for Liverpool. The comedian celebrates Merseyside's best comedy stars **8.00** Benny Hill Time. Impresario Fred Scuttle describes the swinging pop scene **8.30** Whack-O! **9.00** Paper Cuts. Kate Thornton invites Cilla Black to look back over her career **10.00** Comedy Club: Mitch Benn Is the 37th Beatle **10.30** Mark Watson Makes the World Substantially Better **11.00** Vent **11.30** Life: An Idiot's Guide **12.00** Fear on Four **12.30am** The Golden Apples of the Sun

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am News **9.06** BBC OS Conversations **9.30** Pick of the World **9.50** Over to You **10.00** News **10.06** Sports Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** Unspun World with John Simpson **12.00** News **12.05pm** The Forum **12.06** The Documentary **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.06** Sportsworld **6.00** The Newsroom **6.30** Dear Daughter **6.50** Sporting Witness **7.00** News **7.06** The Inquiry **7.30** Outlook **8.00** News **8.06** The Arts Hour **9.00** Newshour **10.06** Music Life **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Tech Life **12.00** News **12.06am** BBC OS Conversations **12.30** Dear Daughter **12.50** Sporting Witness **1.00** News **1.05** Unexpected Elements **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Healthcheck **3.00** News **3.06** The Forum **4.00** News **4.06** From Our Own Correspondent **4.30** Global Jigsaw **4.50** Sporting Witness

6 Music
Digital only

6.00am Amy Lamé **8.00** Deb Grant **10.00** The Huey Show **1.00pm** Jamz Supernova on 6 **3.00** Gilles Peterson **6.00** The Craig Charles Funk and Soul Show **9.00** The Blessed Madonna **12.00** Lose Yourself With **2.00am** Late in the Day **4.00** The Morning After Mix

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.00am Amy Voce **9.30** The Graham Norton Radio Show **12.30pm** Stu Elmore **4.00** Tim Cocker **7.00** Ben Jones **10.00** Rich Williams **1.00am** Olivia Jones

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

7.00am Alan Titchmarsh **10.00** Aled Jones **1.00pm** Alexander Armstrong **4.00** Moira Stuart's Hall of Fame Concert. Moira presents a complete recording of Delius' *Florida Suite* **7.00** Saturday Night at the Movies. Jonathan Ross presents soundtracks from films with hidden messages, including music from *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Toy Story* **9.00** David Mellor's Melodies. A sample of Joseph Calleja's new album **10.00** Smooth Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00** Sam Pittis

Sunday 28 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Barry Humphries at the BBC
BBC2, 9pm



Dame Edna Everage and Sir Les Patterson were a chat show host's nightmare but an audience's dream. Time and again the creations of the great Australian comedian Barry Humphries, who died last month, managed to fluster the usually unflappable Michael Parkinson, *right*, and the like on Auntie Beeb, leaving the host terrified as to what outrageous statements they might utter next on live television. However, hosts could forgive the razor-sharp put-downs because Humphries, either in character or appearing as himself, was a raconteur nonpareil. In this hour-long tribute, *The One Show*'s Alex Jones looks back at the highlights of Humphries's career on a selection of BBC shows, sharing some of his "funniest, rudest and most revealing moments from over the decades". Also showing on BBC2 tonight in honour of Humphries is *Rebels of Oz* (10pm/11pm), Howard Jacobson's 2014 two-part portrait of the gang of four — Humphries, Germaine Greer, Clive James and Robert Hughes — who, according to Simon Schama, arrived in the UK from Australia like "hoodlums in the playground". Jacobson's aim is to discover why the quartet left Australia in the first place and how they became so successful in their adopted country. Humphries is on top form, talking up the deliberate dullness of his creation Sandy Stone, who delivers monologues that are not even faintly amusing, declaring that he had "liberated comedy from the necessity of being funny". Well, sure, but all those chat show appearances are a reminder of how funny Humphries was. Joe Clay

Midsomer Murders
ITV1, 8pm

The body count in Midsomer remains ludicrously high as DCI John Barnaby (Neil Dudgeon) investigates a murder after a grisly discovery during rehearsals for an amateur operatic production of *The Pirates of Penzance* by the Midsomer Mummers. The body of a man is found in the prop treasure chest and none of the cast or crew profess to know who he is. With no identification there is no motive and therefore no suspect. The pressure is on for Barnaby and Winter (Nick Hendrix) to identify the victim and unmask the killer, who seems rather keen on taking centre stage. **JC**

The Yeomen of the Guard
BBC4, 8pm

Filmed last year at the London Coliseum, the English National Opera's production of the much-loved Gilbert & Sullivan classic, set in the Tower of London, updates the story from Tudor times to the 1950s. The wrongly imprisoned Fairfax (Anthony Gregory) is an alleged spy rather than an alleged sorcerer. Many liberties are taken with the 1888 original, but there's a lot to enjoy. As Jack Point, Richard McCabe summons the morose spirit of every brittle, embittered and tragic clown from Pagliacci to Tony Hancock. **Richard Morrison**

Ten Pound Poms
BBC1, 9pm

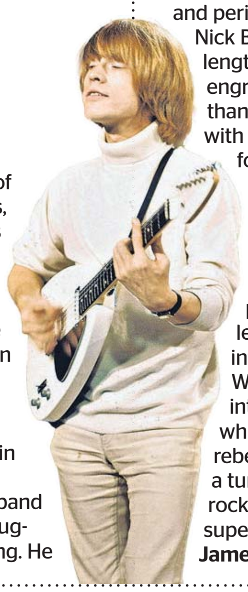
Danny Brocklehurst's busy Australian-set drama continues, and with Terry (Warren Brown) still racked with guilt about the death of the Aboriginal child, he is back on the booze and becoming estranged from his wife, Annie (Faye Marsay). Meanwhile, Kate confides in Annie about her missing child and the pair embark on a risky road trip. With Annie away, Peter and Pattie run wild — literally in Peter's case as he makes friends with a gang of Aboriginal children — and Terry befriends Ron (Rob Collins). We also witness a recreation of the first night of live Australian television. "Never gonna take off," JJ says. **JC**

60 Days on the Estates
Channel 4, 9pm

Ed Stafford, a former army captain turned explorer and film-maker, is spending 60 days living on some of the UK's most notorious estates to report on what life is really like for the people who call them home. All he really knows is "the negative stuff… the crime, the drugs", but what will the reality be? For the first three weeks he is staying in a flat in Northumberland Park in Haringey, one of the poorest boroughs in London. There are positives, but it is mostly grim viewing, with families crammed into one-bedroom flats struggling to survive. **JC**

Catch up

The Stones and Brian Jones
BBC iPlayer



In the early days of the Rolling Stones, it was Brian Jones who got all the fan mail. The band's female fans wanted to be his Lady Jane even more than they wanted to be Mick's. Yet by the time he drowned in 1969 he'd been ditched from the band and was lost in drug-addled self-loathing. He is a fascinating figure, and by concentrating on one aspect and period of the Stones, Nick Broomfield's feature-length film is more engrossingly "deep-dive" than so many others, with much lesser-seen footage. Broomfield does not sanitise the musician: he could be cruel and had a habit of getting girls pregnant then leaving them. A new interview with Bill Wyman gives insight into Jones's tale, which is one of rebellion, dizzying fame, a turbulent love life and rock'n'roll's first superstar casualty. **James Jackson**

Regional programmes

● **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 10.00-10.30am** Politics Wales. Political update **4.00pm** Weatherman Walking (r) **4.30-5.00pm** Wynne's Welsh 70s. Wynne Evans focuses on events recorded by BBC Wales during 1973 (r)
● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.00-10.30am** Sunday Politics Northern Ireland. Political news and debate
● **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 10.00pm** Séamus Mac Murchaidh: Díolta Faoina Luach (r) **11.00** Sunday Politics Northern Ireland (r) **11.30** Rebels of Oz: Germaine, Clive, Barry and Bob. The impact of four Australian figures on western culture (r) **12.30-1.00am** Barra on the Bann. Weather presenter Barra Best travels along the Bann (r)
● **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 10.00-10.30am** The Sunday Show **11.30** Bargain Hunt (r) **Midday** Songs of Praise (r) **12.35pm** Points of View **12.50** Lifeline **1.00-4.00** Live Sportscene: Women's Scottish Cup Final: Celtic v Rangers Jane Lewis presents all the action from the showpiece match, held at Hampden Park. (Kick-off **1.30**) (r) **10.30** Lewis Capaldi at Radio 1's Big Weekend **11.30** Match of the Day **1.10am** Sportscene: Premiership Highlights (r) **2.10** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.15-6.00am** BBC News
● **STV As ITV1 except: 6.45-6.59pm** STV News **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision
● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** The Seven **7.15** Sportscene: Premiership Highlights **8.15** Scotland's Home of the Year (r) **8.45** Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs (r) **9.00** Paramedics on Scene. An out-of-control dog attacks its owner **10.00** Still Game (r) **10.30** General Assembly. Sheena McDonald presents highlights of the Church of Scotland's gathering **11.00pm-Midnight** Seven Days
● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw (r) **9.00** Garddio a Mwy (r) **9.30** Sain Ffagan (r) **10.00** Symud i Gymru (r) **11.00** Ar y Dibyn (r) **11.30** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol (r) **12.00** Yr Wythnos **12.25pm** Dan Do (r) **12.50** Jason Mohammad: Stadiymau'r Byd (r) **1.45** Ffermio (r) **2.15** Live Seiclo: Giro d'Italia. Coverage of the 21st and final stage of the Grand Tour race, featuring a route of 135km around Rome **6.20** Pobol y Cwm Omnibws (r) **7.20** News **7.30** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol. Nia Roberts visits the Christian retreat of Ffald y Brenin **8.00** Iaith ar Daith. Actor Neet Mohan embarks on a road trip across Wales **9.00** Croeso i'r Eisteddfod **10.00** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia **10.45-11.50** Llofruddiaeth Jack Armstrong (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

Films of the day

Alice Through the Looking Glass (PG 2016)
BBC1, 2.15pm

In Tim Burton's 2010 version Alice ventured into Wonderland, fought the Jabberwocky and became the warrior princess we knew she was all along. In this movie, directed by James Bobin (The Muppets), Alice (Mia Wasikowska) returns to Wonderland, meets up with her old friend the Mad Hatter (Johnny Depp, *below with Wasikowska*), who is depressed because he has remembered how his father never approved of his design skills. So she decides to steal a time machine that will allow her to go back to the Mad Hatter's childhood. It is imperfect, but Wasikowska is as dependable as ever and Helena Bonham Carter's profoundly expressive face, blown up, mega-size, for the Red Queen, remains compelling. (113min) **Kevin Maher**



Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (15, 2017)
Channel 4, 11pm

The set-up will be familiar to anyone who has seen a western, a crime film or any Hollywood movie featuring a protagonist motivated by revenge. In this case the avenging angel is Mildred Hayes (Frances McDormand), a grieving mother from Ebbing determined to bring the men who raped and murdered her daughter to justice, even if this means incurring the wrath of the local police department, led by a kindly sheriff, Bill Willoughby (Woody Harrelson), and his bigoted sidekick, Jason Dixon (Sam Rockwell). Mildred's billboards target the cancer-stricken Willoughby and throw the town into chaos. Bleakness, violence and anger are matched by compassion, hope and decency. (115min) **KM**

Also available online and on tablet
Digital subscribers can now use our interactive seven-day guide with comprehensive listings of all TV channels
thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Sunday 28

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.00** Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg **10.00** Politics England **10.30** 2023: A Celebration for Pentecost. A vibrant service celebrating the festival of Pentecost from Birmingham City Church **11.30** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.30pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News; Weather **1.15** Songs of Praise **1.50** Points of View **2.05** Lifeline **2.15 FILM Alice Through the Looking Glass (PG, 2016)** Fantasy adventure sequel starring Mia Wasikowska. **See Film Choice 4.00** Primates. Chris Packham narrates a look at the complex social and family lives of the animal group, from leaf monkeys babysitting an infant to gibbons learning daredevil treetop acrobatics (r) **5.00** Final Score **6.35** BBC News **6.50** BBC Regional News; Weather



Ten Pound Poms continues (9pm)

7.00 Countryfile Charlotte Smith and Matt Baker are in Upper Teesdale, hearing about the work of a remarkable 97-year-old botanist and the members of Durham Wildlife Trust

8.00 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce visits Powis Castle, where Duncan Campbell discovers a vanishingly rare silver tobacco box from the 1600s, and Serhat Ahmet examines a porcelain egg with a royal connection

9.00 Ten Pound Poms Annie is furious when Terry stays out all night. To give him a taste of his own medicine, Annie leaves him home alone with the kids and bonds with Kate on a cross-country road trip. **See Viewing Guide** (3/6)

10.00 BBC News; Weather and Regional News

10.30 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents action from the concluding round of Premier League fixtures. The matches taking place were Arsenal v Wolverhampton Wanderers, Aston Villa v Brighton & Hove Albion, Brentford v Manchester City, Chelsea v Newcastle United, Crystal Palace v Nottingham Forest, Everton v Bournemouth, Leeds United v Tottenham Hotspur, Leicester City v West Ham United at King Power Stadium, Manchester United v Fulham at Old Trafford and Southampton v Liverpool at St Mary's Stadium

12.10am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.15** BBC News

BBC2

6.30am A to Z of TV Gardening (r) **6.50** Countryfile (r) **7.45** Beechgrove Garden (r) **8.15** Landward **8.45** Around the World in 80 Gardens (r) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites **11.15** Family Cooking Showdown (r) **12.15pm** Rick Stein's Spain. The chef embarks on a culinary tour, beginning in Galicia (r) **1.15 FILM Lover Come Back (PG, 1961)** Romantic comedy starring Doris Day and Rock Hudson **3.00** Live Cycling: RideLondon Classique. Coverage of the third and final stage of the women's race, featuring a 92km circuit that starts and finishes at The Mall in central London **6.00** Flog It! Paul Martin presents from Bristol Cathedral (r) **6.45** Grand Tours of Scotland's Rivers. Paul Murton follows the eastward course of the river South Esk



Rom-com Lover Come Back (1.15pm)

7.15 Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy Stanley heads to Rome and meets up with Claudia della Frattina, heading to a restaurant to order rigatoni all'amatriciana, one of the famous four Roman pastas (2/6) (r)

8.00 Simon Reeve's South America The adventurer travels to the vast white salt flats of Bolivia, through the world's greatest wetlands of Brazil's Pantanal, and on to the forested heart of Paraguay (4/5) (r)

9.00 Barry Humphries at the BBC Alex Jones looks back at the highlights of the comedian and actor's career on a selection of BBC shows, sharing some of his funniest, rudest and most revealing moments. **See Viewing Guide**

10.00 Rebels of Oz: Germaine, Clive, Barry and Bob Presenter Howard Jacobson examines the impact of Australians Robert Hughes, Clive James, Barry Humphries and Germaine Greer on western culture. **See Viewing Guide** (1/2) (r)

11.00 Rebels of Oz: Germaine, Clive, Barry and Bob Howard Jacobson explores how Germaine Greer, Clive James, Barry Humphries and Robert Hughes became influential figures around the world. **See Viewing Guide** (2/2) (r)

12.00 Miriam Margolyes: Almost Australian. The actress sees where the wealth of the country comes from. Last in the series (r) **1.00am** Sign Zone: Question Time. From Gravesend, Kent (r) (SL) **2.00-3.00** Steeltown Murders (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am CITV **8.25** ITV News **8.30** Laura Whitmore's Breakfast Show **9.25** Love Your Weekend with Alan Titchmarsh **11.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning (r) **1.35pm** ITV News; Weather **1.45** Love Your Garden (r) **2.45** The Masked Singer US (r) **3.40** In for a Penny. Stephen Mulhern heads to Cardiff for the game show in which he travels around the UK setting members of the public unusual challenges for the chance to win prizes (r) **4.15 FILM You Only Live Twice (PG, 1967)** James Bond investigates the disappearance of US and Soviet spacecraft and finally comes face to face with his deadliest enemy. Spy thriller starring Sean Connery, Donald Pleasence and Akiko Wakabayashi **6.30** ITV News; Weather **6.45** Regional News; Weather



Another murder in Midsomer (8pm)

7.00 Sitting on a Fortune New series. Gary Lineker returns with the game show as six contestants answer questions to remain in with a chance of taking away up to £100,000

8.00 Midsomer Murders The members of amateur operatic society the Midsomer Mummers are busy rehearsing for their charity concert when the body of an unknown man is found in their theatre. Barnaby and Winter's investigation quickly becomes a race to discover who is desperate to be centre stage. Crime drama, starring Neil Dudgeon and Nick Hendrix, with Kevin Whately, Samantha Spiro and Shobna Gulati. **See Viewing Guide** (5/6)

10.00 ITV News

10.20 FILM Safe House (15, 2012) A CIA agent stationed in South Africa is sent to question a rogue operative, who has been arrested years after betraying the agency, only to be attacked by mercenaries hired to capture the fugitive. As they flee for their lives, the interrogator has to contend with not only the enemies hunting them, but also the mind games of his prisoner. Thriller, with Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds

12.20am English Football League Highlights. Action from the League Two play-off final, which came from Wembley Stadium (r) **1.10** Teleshopping **3.00** Motorsport UK (r) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Ainsley's Food We Love. Recipes (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.20am Cheers (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.15** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.30** The Simpsons (r) **9.00** The Simpsons (r) **9.30** Sunday Brunch **12.30pm** The Simpsons (r) **1.00** The Simpsons. Homer gets Flanders a job at the nuclear plant (r) **1.25** The Simpsons. An insurance payout sends the family on a trip to Denmark (r) **1.55** The Simpsons. Bart receives visits from ghosts (r) **2.25** The Simpsons. Bart discovers a passion for American history (r) **2.50** The Secret Life of the Zoo. Vets at Chester Zoo treat an elephant calf for the herpes virus (r) **3.55 FILM Galaxy Quest (PG, 1999)** Sci-fi comedy starring Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver and Alan Rickman **6.00** Channel 4 News



60 Days on the Estates (9pm)

6.30 Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Highlights Action from the sixth round of the season, held at the Circuit de Monaco. Sergio Perez of Red Bull was the victorious driver here last year, with Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr finishing second and Perez's teammate Max Verstappen completing the podium. Steve Jones presents, with analysis from David Coulthard, Mark Webber, Billy Monger and Ariana Bravo

9.00 60 Days on the Estates New series. Filmmaker Ed Stafford moves into some of the UK's most troubled housing estates for 60 days and nights, to experience first-hand the daily hardships that locals face. **See Viewing Guide** (1/3)

10.00 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week, with cameras capturing their reactions (r)

11.00 Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (15, 2017) A woman pressures the police into continuing the investigation into her daughter's murder. Crime drama starring Frances McDormand. **See Film Choice**

1.15am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. A struggling restaurant on Long Island (r) (SL) **2.00** The Simpsons (r) **2.25** Come Dine with Me. Five editions (r) **4.40** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It: Brilliant Builds (r) **5.05** Great British History Hunters (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **10.00** The Smurfs (r) **10.25** Entertainment News on 5 **10.30** Police Interceptors (r) **11.30** Police Interceptors. A dangerous driver leads the team on a white-knuckle ride across Nottinghamshire (r) **12.30pm** Police Interceptors. Officers hunt for two suspects allegedly armed with a gun (r) **1.30** Live Rugby Union: Barbarians v World XV (Kick-off **2.00**). All the action from the Killik Cup match at Twickenham **4.00** Ed Sheeran: Britain's Favourite Popstar. A celebratory look at the singer's career to date, featuring highlights of some of his most memorable performances alongside interviews with friends and fans (r) **6.00** Britain's Favourite Biscuit. The nation's best-loved biscuits are revealed (r) **6.25** 5 News Weekend



The pop star Ed Sheeran (4pm)

6.30 When Camping Goes Horribly Wrong Nightmare stories of people staying under canvas, including an encounter with a lion, and a holiday taking a sinister turn when two female backpackers have their car tyres slashed

8.00 Happy Campers: The Caravan Park Tencreek Park manager Rob facies a problem when there is no power to the kitchen, meaning breakfast for the campers is in danger if the problem is not solved (2/8)

9.00 Rich House, Poor House Dr Rashpal Singh and his wife Kiran own a successful cosmetics clinic and they swap lives with Co Durham single mum Natalee, who survives on just £60 a week after bills (2/8)

10.05 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Drag queen Colin "Coco" Brown holds a fundraising event for his horse rescue centre (3/10) (r)

10.55 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments Memorable incidents involving famous couples, featuring break-ups, extra-marital shenanigans and on-screen romances spilling over into real life (6/10) (r)

12.55am Entertainment News **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** The Yorkshire Vet (r) **3.50** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.40** Fireman Sam (r) (SL) **5.50** Thomas: Big World! (r) (SL)

Sunday 28 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat



Absolutely Fabulous

Joanna Lumley and Jennifer Saunders star in the movie
BBC3, 9.50pm

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am Cristo
7.00 David Bull The biggest stories of the day
10.00 Richard Tice The former MEP examines the state of the nation and delivers his Sunday Sermon
1.00pm Trisha Goddard The broadcaster takes a look through the week's leading stories and gives her opinion on the week's biggest social dilemmas
4.00 Kevin O'Sullivan The host tackles the big stories
7.00 The Sunday Night Club with Mark Saggers The host reflects on the sporting weekend and more
10.00-12.00 The Unexplained with Howard Hughes If it's unexplained, Hughes will investigate it, from ghosts to Big Foot, the paranormal to the supernatural

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Athletics: Diamond League Rabat The Meeting International Mohammed VI d'Athlétisme de Rabat
9.00 I Kissed a Boy The boys face the most dramatic Kiss Off yet and tensions reach boiling point when a rift forms in the group — leading to a tense dinner party (5/8)
9.50 FILM Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie (15, 2016) Patsy and Edina find themselves vilified by the entire nation and have to flee the country. Comedy starring Jennifer Saunders, Joanna Lumley and Julia Sawalha
11.15 Search Party Tech billionaire Tunnel Quinn hosts Dory's crew for a mind-blowing business meeting (3/10)
11.40-12.10am Search Party The gang kicks off a nationwide search for their first test subjects (4/10)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Queen Victoria: My Musical Britain Lucy Worsley explores the character and legacy of the famous monarch through music, including the establishment of the Royal College of Music and the Royal Albert Hall
8.00 Gilbert and Sullivan's Yeoman of the Guard English National Opera's new production of the Gilbert & Sullivan opera, a fast-paced caper set in the Tower of London. Conducted by Chris Hopkins. **See Viewing Guide**
10.25 Cilla in Scandinavia Cilla Black hosts a 1971 show recorded in Stockholm on Midsummer's Day and on locations in Norway, Sweden and Finland. Guests include Ringo Starr and Basil Brush
11.25-12.15am Cilla Archive performances by Cilla Black

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Come Dine with Me A gardener tries to exceed her guests' low expectations on the fourth night in Woking and Weybridge in Surrey
7.25 Come Dine with Me A children's entertainer hosts the week's final party from Woking and Weybridge
8.00 Château DIY: Living the Dream Revisiting musicians Ben and Billie, who bought Château La Grande Maison near the Loire Valley
9.00 999: On the Front Line Paramedics respond to reports of a patient in cardiac arrest (1/10)
10.00 The Emergency Ward Dr Catriona is worried that a man might lose his sight after a workplace accident
11.00-12.05am Emergency Helicopter Medics In Oxfordshire, the heli-medics are dispatched to a motocross track (3/10)

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.45pm True Blood Bill and Eric hunt for Russell Edgington. A Sanguinista traitor is located among the Vampire Authority, and Jason uncovers a secret (4/12) (R)
7.50 Catherine the Great In the final episode, Potemkin is forced to fight for Catherine and for Russia once again, and the exertion of war begins to take its toll on their relationship (4/4) (R)
9.00 Succession Tensions run high for the Roys at a momentous funeral, with further wranglings over the potential acquisition of Waystar Royco. With Alexander Skarsgard (9/10) (R)
10.20 Perry Mason The brothers' testimony is brought into question (4/8) (R)
11.25-12.30am The Night Of Alison tries to persuade Naz to take a plea deal (4/8) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

6.30pm FILM Love to Love You, Donna Summer (12, 2023) Profile of the iconic artist, following her career from the avant-garde music scene in Germany, to the glitter and bright lights of dance clubs in New York
9.00 The Man Who Played with Fire Led to Africa, Jan Stocklassa uncovers a surprising motive for Olof Palme's murder, culminating in an undercover meeting with someone described by Stieg Larsson as a middleman (3/4)
10.00-12.10am FILM Inmate 1: The Rise of Danny Trejo (15, 2019) Film shining a spotlight on the darker moments and incredible transformation of the actor's life, as he details an early life of drugs, robbery and prison time

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

8.00pm FILM Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (12, 2019) Luke Hobbs and Deckard Shaw must put their differences aside and team up to stop a terror threat. Action adventure, starring Dwayne Johnson and Jason Statham
10.40 Family Guy Peter starts his own religion
11.10 Family Guy Peter befriends actor James Woods
11.35-12.05am American Dad! Francine and Hayley take a break from their husbands

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.00pm Endeavour (3/5)
8.00 An Audience with Ronnie Corbett The comedian entertains his showbiz peers
9.00 An Audience with Jimmy Tarbuck The Liverpudlian comic entertains celebrities
10.00-12.05am FILM The Booze Cruise (12, 2003) Five men set off on a shopping trip to a French hypermarket, and the wives take advantage of their husbands' absence. Comedy drama starring Martin Clunes and Mark Benton

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.15pm FILM Battle of Britain (PG, 1969) Second World War drama starring Laurence Olivier
9.00 English Football League Highlights Action from the League Two play-off final, which came from Wembley Stadium
10.00-12.40am FILM Die Hard (15, 1988) A New York cop battles armed men who have taken over a Los Angeles skyscraper where his wife is working on Christmas Eve. Action thriller starring Bruce Willis and Alan Rickman

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

6.50pm The Big Bang Theory an old VHS tape from Sheldon's past inspires him not to give up
7.20 The Big Bang Theory A paintball game results in mayhem
7.50 FILM Crocodile Dundee II (PG, 1988) The Australian adventurer lures the drug dealers who kidnapped his girlfriend to the Outback for a showdown. Comedy adventure starring Paul Hogan
10.00-12.15am FILM Atomic Blonde (15, 2017) Spy thriller starring Charlize Theron

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Brown trout on the river Test in Hampshire
7.40 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Carp in Wiltshire
8.20 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing The river Wye
9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Adil Ray hosts an extended episode of the satirical quiz
10.00 Meet the Richardsons It's Jon's 40th birthday
10.40 Live at the Apollo
11.40-12.20am QI

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.50pm Sister Boniface Mysteries Sister Boniface investigates an murder on the set of a TV show
7.50 Jonathan Creek A mysterious alien skeleton disappears
8.55 Jonathan Creek The duo investigate a hermit's death
10.00 Whitechapel Chandler and the team try to prevent the copycat killer from re-enacting Jack the Ripper's final murder
11.00 Whitechapel
12.00-1.20am Luther The cop confronts the reality of his actions

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Bangers and Cash Derek collects a Ford Thames 400E that once belonged to the pop band Edison Lighthouse (6/15)
8.00 'Allo 'Allo! Rene is reunited with his childhood sweetheart
8.35 'Allo 'Allo! Rene is in trouble with the Resistance
9.05 'Allo 'Allo! Denise escapes
9.40 'Allo 'Allo! Helga reports the whereabouts of the paintings
10.10 Classic Car Garage (6/10)
11.10-12.10am Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics (3/6)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.15pm WWII in Color: Road to Victory The story of Dunkirk
7.20 WWII in Color: Road to Victory In 1939 a German U-boat fires its first torpedo
8.30 WWII in Color: Road to Victory Churchill realises the importance of the Suez Canal
9.40 WWII in Color: Road to Victory Hitler tries to regain the initiative against Stalin
10.50 WWII in Color: Road to Victory The invasion of Italy
12.00-2.00am Apache Warrior

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir Jim and Nancy head to Lancashire looking for the cute but elusive bearded tit (6/6)
8.00 Live from the Artists Den Sheryl Crow performs at the Plaza hotel in New York City (2/6)
9.00 The Ghost of Richard Harris The life and career of the Irish actor told through previously unheard tapes, and with new interviews with his sons
11.20-12.35am Women Who Rock A look at the 1970s (2/4)

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Lost Worlds The Viking raiders on the British coast
8.00 Lost Worlds The story of the building of the Taj Mahal
9.00 Einsatzgruppen: The Nazi Death Squads How Nazi Germany tried to conceal its war crimes (3/4)
10.00 Einsatzgruppen: The Nazi Death Squads Examining the Nuremberg trials (4/4)
11.00 Deadman's Curse Adam and Kru set out on the trail of missing prospector Volcanic Brown (3/8)
12.00-1.00am Pawn Stars

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

6.30pm Fringe Peter grapples with the aftermath of recent events
7.30 Fringe Peter comes to terms with his relationship with Olivia
8.30 Enter the Spider-Verse: A Spider-Man Special Celebrity fans look back on more than 20 years of Spider-Man movies
9.00 S.W.A.T Kidnappers hold a prison guard's family hostage
10.00 NCIS: Los Angeles The team suspects four shootings are connected to the Drona Project
11.00-12.20am Poker Face (1/10)

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Lost Treasures of Rome Archaeologists unravel the secrets of life in the Roman Empire (1/6)
8.00 Drain the Oceans A shipwreck is thought to be a lost flagship from the War of 1812
9.00 Kingdom of the Mummies Dr Ramadan Hussein discovers two priests buried side by side (4/4)
10.00 UFOs: Investigating the Unknown Near misses (4/5)
11.00 America's Hardest Prisons
12.00-1.00am America's Hardest Prisons Documentary

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Moonshiners: Master Distiller Three distillers compete in a global whiskey showdown
8.00 Naked and Afraid: Solo
9.00 Blowing Up History Experts investigate the city of Palenque
10.00 Roadworthy Rescues
11.00 Wheeler Dealers
12.00-1.00am Naked and Afraid

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Silicon Valley (6/10)
7.40 Silicon Valley (7/10)
8.20 Silicon Valley (8/10)
9.00 Barry Comedy (7/8)
9.40 Curb Your Enthusiasm (5/10)
10.15 Ricky Velez: Here's Everything The comedian bares all
11.20-12.25am Jerrod Carmichael: Rothaniel A stand-up special

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends
7.30 Friends
8.00 Friends
8.30 Friends
9.00 FILM Lethal Weapon (15, 1987) Action thriller starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover
11.15 Digman!
11.45-12.15am Digman!

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm dinnerladies
7.40 dinnerladies
8.20 dinnerladies
9.00 Billy Connolly Does Billy ruminates about dream locations
10.00 The Fast Show
10.40 The Fast Show
11.20 The Fast Show
12.00-1.00am Billy Connolly Does

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Inside the Ambulance A man struggles to breathe after injuring himself
8.00 Inside the Operating Theatre
9.00 Leigh-Anne: Race, Pop & Power Exploring race in music
10.20 DNA Family Secrets
11.40-12.40am Stacey Dooley Sleeps Over Documentary

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Death in Paradise The president of the local military re-enactment society dies (3/8)
8.00 Death in Paradise (7/8)
9.00 Death in Paradise A body turns up in the police station (8/8)
10.00 CSI: Vegas A bomb goes off at a masquerade party
11.00-12.15am Smother (5/6)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

1.55pm Live Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix (Start-time **2.00**)
4.00 Live Super Sunday A Premier League match (Kick-off **4.30**)
7.30 Live IndyCar Series: The Indianapolis 500
9.00 Live PGA Tour Golf: The Charles Schwab Challenge
11.30 Live LPGA Tour Golf: The Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play presented by MGM Rewards
2.30-4.00am Live NBA Basketball: Denver Nuggets v Los Angeles Lakers (Tip-off TBA)

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

12.30pm Fantasy Football Pre-Match The countdown is on to the FPL deadline
1.00 Premier League: Final Day
2.00 Premier League: Final Day
3.00 Live Super Sunday A Premier League match (Kick-off **4.30**)
7.30 Drink It In: The Rise of Man City A look at the return to prominence of Manchester City
8.30 David James: The One and Only The former England star looks at goalkeeping
10.00-12.00 PL Highlights



Red Bull's Sergio Pérez competes in the Monaco Grand Prix (Sky Main Event, 1.55pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

1.55pm IPL Action from the second qualifier match from Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad
2.50 Live Indian Premier League The final from Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad
7.30 Vitality T20 Blast Cricket Durham Jets v Northamptonshire Steelbacks. Another chance to see the 2016 final at Edgbaston
8.00-12.40am IPL Another chance to see this year's final from Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

7.30am-10.30 Live AFL: Adelaide Crows v Brisbane Lions
11.30-1.30pm Live: Serie A Football from Italy's top division
3.30pm Live Premier League A top-flight match (Kick-off **4.30**)
7.00 Golazzo Live
7.45 Live Serie A Football from Italy's top division
10.00 BT Sport Films
11.30 Uefa Europa League & Conference League Magazine
12.00-3.30am Live MLB: Atlanta Braves v Philadelphia Phillies

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

6.00am-11.30 Live Badminton: The Malaysia Masters Finals Coverage from Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
2.00pm Live Serie A Football from Italy's top division
4.00 BT Sport Score
7.00 BT Sport Fight Night Luis Alberto Lopez v Michael Conlan
9.00 WWE SmackDown Highlights
10.00 WWE NXT
11.45-12.00 BT Sport Reload The best moments from BT Sport over the last week

Sunday 28

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

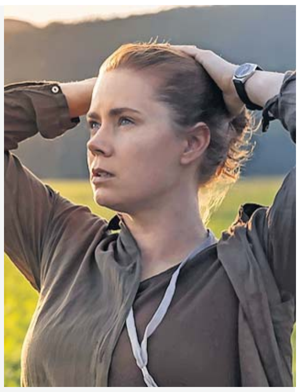
11.00am Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG, 2011) Animated comedy sequel with the voices of Jack Black and Gary Oldman **12.50pm Oliver! (U, 1968)** Musical starring Ron Moody **3.45 Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (12, 2003)** Seafaring drama starring Russell Crowe **6.25 Star Trek Into Darkness (12, 2013)** Sci-fi adventure sequel starring Chris Pine **9.00 Arrival (12, 2016)** Sci-fi drama starring Amy Adams and Jeremy Renner **11.20-1.40am Alien: Covenant (15, 2017)** Sci-fi thriller starring Katherine Waterston and Michael Fassbender

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am The Riverside Murder (PG, 1935) Crime drama starring Basil Sydney **7.15 Topper Returns (PG, 1941)** Supernatural comic mystery starring Roland Young **9.05 Down to the Sea in Ships (PG, 1949)** Adventure starring Lionel Barrymore, Richard Widmark and Dean Stockwell **11.35 San Ferry Ann (U, 1965)** Comedy starring Wilfrid Brambell and Joan Sims **12.40pm The Woman in Question (PG, 1950)** Thriller starring Dirk Bogarde **2.30 The Larkins 3.00 Mr Denning Drives North (12, 1951)** Drama with John Mills and Phyllis Calvert **4.50 Look at Life 5.00 The Footage Detectives 6.00 The Saint 7.00 Home at Seven (U, 1952)** Mystery starring Ralph Richardson, Margaret Leighton and Jack Hawkins **8.45 Look at Life 9.00 Van der Valk 10.00-11.55pm The Groundstar Conspiracy (PG, 1972)** Thriller starring George Peppard and Michael Sarrazin

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am GREAT! Movie News 9.10 A Deadly Obsession (15, 2011) Thriller starring Katee Sackhoff and Grant Harvey **11.00 GREAT! Movie News 11.10 Lawrence of Arabia (PG, 1962)** Oscar-winning epic drama starring Peter O'Toole and Omar Sharif **3.20pm GREAT! Movie News 3.30 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (12, 1994)** Comedy with Jim Carrey, Courteney Cox and Sean Young **5.05 Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls (12, 1995)** Comedy sequel starring Jim Carrey and Simon Callow **6.55 The Rundown (12, 2003)** Action comedy with Dwayne Johnson and Seann William Scott and Christopher Walken



Amy Adams in the sc-fi drama Arrival (Film4, 9pm)

9.00 A Few Good Men (15, 1992) Military courtroom drama starring Tom Cruise **11.50-1.55am Basic (15, 2003)** Thriller starring John Travolta

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.00am Hollywood's Best Film Directors 6.35 Off Set 6.50 One Spy Too Many (PG, 1966) Adventure with Robert Vaughn and David McCallum **8.55 Ice Station Zebra (U, 1968)** Arctic adventure starring Rock Hudson **11.55 Apache War Smoke (U, 1952)** Western starring Gilbert Roland and Glenda Farrell **1.25pm Riding Shotgun (U, 1954)** Western with Randolph Scott and Wayne Morris **3.00 The Young Guns (PG, 1956)** Western starring Russ Tamblyn and Perry Lopez **4.45 Operation: Daybreak (15, 1975)** Second World War drama with Timothy Bottoms **7.10 Off Set 7.25 Cavalry Scout (U, 1951)** Western starring Rod Cameron and Audrey Long **9.00 Unforgiven (15, 1992)** Western starring Clint Eastwood and Gene Hackman **11.45-1.55am Fire Down Below (18, 1997)** Action adventure with Steven Seagal

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.25pm To Catch A Killer (15, 2023) Thriller starring Shailene Woodley, Ben Mendelsohn and Ralph Ineson **2.25 Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG, 2022)** Musical comedy starring Javier Bardem **4.25 Dead Shot (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Aml Ameen **6.00 To Catch A Killer (15, 2023)** Thriller with Shailene Woodley and Ralph Ineson **8.00 Summering (12, 2022)** Premiere. Four girls struggle with the harsh truths of growing up. Drama starring Lia Barnett and Sanai Victoria **9.40 Hallowe'en Ends (18, 2022)** Horror sequel starring Jamie Lee Curtis **11.45-1.35am Dead Shot (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Aml Ameen and Colin Morgan

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

6.00am Chloe Tilley and Calum Macdonald with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Sunday Morning with Kate McCann and Adam Boulton **1.00pm** Alexis Conran **4.00** Ayesha Hazarika **7.00** Highlights from Times Radio **8.00** Stories of Our Times **8.30** Best of Matt Chorley. Highlights **9.00** Highlights from Times Radio **10.00** Darryl Morris **1.00am** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

5.00am Tracks of My Years **6.00** Good Morning Sunday **9.00** Steve Wright's Sunday Love Songs **11.00** The Michael Ball Show **1.00pm** Samantha Barks on Sunday **3.00** Sounds of the 70s with Johnnie Walker **5.00** Shaun Keaveny **7.00** Tony Blackburn's Golden Hour **8.00** Sunday Night Is Music Night. A concert celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Billie Holiday (r) **10.00** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin **12.00** Phil Williams **3.00am** Alternative Sounds of the 90s **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

7.00am Breakfast 9.00 Sunday Morning 12.00 Private Passions 1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert The Sitkovetsky Trio performs at Wigmore Hall. Sam Perkin (*Freakshow*); Beethoven (Allegretto in B flat, WoO 39) and Mendelssohn (Piano Trio No 2 in C minor, Op 66) (r) **2.00 The Early Music Show** Mark Seow explores Bach's *Die Elenden sollen essen* **3.00 Choral Evensong** From St Paul's Cathedral, London (r) **4.00 Jazz Record Requests 5.00 The Listening Service** Exploring Ravel's *Bolero* (r) **5.30 Words and Music** Poetry and prose from the Cotswolds and Gloucestershire (r) **6.45 Between the Ear: Secrets of the Scottish Rainforest** Exploring the endangered habitat near the Sound of Mull **7.15 Sunday Feature: New Generation Thinkers** Thomas Roe's attempts to forge a relationship with a Mughal emperor (r) **7.30 Drama on 3: Black Water** Roland Schimmelpfennig's play interweaving the stories of the children of Turkish migrant workers with a group of young Germans. **See Choice 9.00 Record Review Extra** The recommended version of Smetana's *The Bartered Bride* **11.30 Slow Radio: We're Going Deptford Market** Soundscape recorded at the London market **12.00 Classical Fix 12.30am Through the Night** (r)

Today's pick

Drama on 3: Black Water
Radio 3, 7.30pm
Roland Schimmelpfennig's play, which debuted on the German stage, tells the story of two groups of very different young people who are brought together when they climb the fence of a forbidden swimming pool one summer night. The lives of Frank, Leyla, Cynthia, Freddie, Murat, Mehmet, Karim, Olli, Aishe and Kerstin are never the same in a play that explores the complex relationships between class,



education, expectations, family history, relationships and destiny. It is translated by David Tushingham with an original score by Simon Slater, *above*. **Ben Dowell**

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Bells on Sunday 5.45 Profile (r) **6.00 News Headlines 6.05 Something Understood** Exploring translation (r) **6.35 On Your Farm 7.00 News and Papers 7.10 Sunday 7.54 Radio 4 Appeal 8.00 News and Papers 8.10 Sunday Worship 8.48 A Point of View** (r) **8.58 Tweet of the Day** (r) **9.00 Broadcasting House 10.00 The Archers** (r) **11.15 Desert Island Discs** With Ronnie O'Sullivan **12.01pm (LW) Shipping 12.04 Just a Minute** (8/8) (r) **12.30 The Food Programme 1.00 The World This Weekend 1.30 Conspiracies: The Secret Knowledge** How to distinguish between real and unreal conspiracies (3/3) **2.00 Gardeners' Question Time** Listeners' queries (r) **2.45 Opening Lines 3.00 Drama: Love Stories — A Room with a View** Written by EM Forster (2/2) **4.00 Open Book** Reviews **4.30 Whose Truth Is It Anyway?** Damian Barr reveals his own experiences with writing truth in fiction **5.00 File on 4** (r) **5.40 Profile** (r) **5.54 Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.15 Pick of the Week 7.00 The Archers** There's trouble at the cricket **7.15 Mark Steel's in Town** (r) **7.45 On Portobello Prom** By Sara Sheridan. Giorgio and Rosie go for coffee (4/5) **8.00 More or Less** (r) **8.30 Last Word** (r) **9.00 Money Box** (r) **9.25 Radio 4 Appeal** (r) **9.30 Loose Ends** (r) **10.00 The Westminster Hour 11.00 The Moral Maze** (r) **12.00 News and Weather 12.15am Thinking Allowed** (r) **12.45 Bells on Sunday** (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Ukrainecast **6.00** 5 Live Science **7.00** Sunday Breakfast **10.00** Helen Skelton **12.00** 5 Live Sport **2.00pm** 5 Live Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix (Start-time **2.00**) **4.00** 5 Live Sport **6.00** Sports Report **7.30** 6-0-6 **9.00** Stephen Nolan **12.00** Terri White — Finding Britain's Ghost Children. Two editions **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

6.00am Breakfast **10.00** Jonny Owen and Friends **12.00** The Warm Up **3.00pm** GameDay Live. Coverage of the final round of fixtures in the Premier League (Kick-offs **4.30**) **7.00** The GameDay Phone-In **10.00** Trans Europe Express **12.00** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am Cristo **7.00** David Bull **10.00** Richard Tice **1.00pm** Trisha Goddard **4.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **7.00** The Sunday Night Club with Mark Saggers **10.00** The Unexplained **12.00** That Was The Woke That Was **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

7.50am Dead Cert **9.00** Ken Dodd **9.30** The Navy Lark **10.00** Desert Island Discs **10.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **11.00** Poetry Extra: The Echo Chamber — Clarke's Psalter **11.30** In My Mind's Eye **12.40pm** Inheritance Tracks **12.50** Dead Cert **2.00** Ken Dodd **2.30** The Navy Lark **3.00** Desert Island Discs **3.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **4.00** Fear on Four **4.30** The Golden Apples of the Sun **5.00** Poetry Extra: The Echo Chamber — Clarke's Psalter **5.30** In My Mind's Eye **6.40** Inheritance Tracks **6.50** Dead Cert **8.00** Ken Dodd **8.30** The Navy Lark **9.00** Desert Island Discs **9.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **10.00** The Tim Vine Chat Show **10.30** Isy Suttie's Love Letters **11.00** Andy Hamilton Sort of Remembers **11.30** Brian Appleton's History of Rock 'n' Roll **11.45** Self Storage **12.00** Poetry Extra: The Echo Chamber — Clarke's Psalter **12.30am** In My Mind's Eye

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am News **9.06** From Our Own Correspondent **9.30** Outlook **10.00** News **10.06** Music Life **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Global Jigsaw **11.50** More or Less **12.00** News **12.06pm** BBC OS Conversations **12.30** Assignment **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.06** Music Life **3.00** News **3.06** Sportsworld **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Unspun World with John Simpson **8.00** News **8.06** Unexpected Elements **9.00** Newshour **10.06** The Climate Question **10.30** Pick of the World **10.50** Over to You **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Outlook **12.00** News **12.06am** From Our Own Correspondent **12.30** The Global Jigsaw **12.50** More or Less **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Discovery **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** CrowdScience **3.00** News **3.06** People Fixing the World **3.30** Pick of the World **3.50** Over to You **4.00** Newsroom **4.30** The Conversation

6 Music
Digital only

6.00am Amy Lamé **8.00** Deb Grant **10.00** Cerys Matthews **1.00pm** Journeys in Sound **2.00** Guy Garvey **4.00** Iggy Pop **6.00** Now Playing **8.00** Stuart Maconie **10.00** Don Letts **12.00** Sleater-Kinney **2.00am** Billy Porter **3.00** Rave Forever **4.00** The BBC Introducing Mixtape

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.00am Amy Voce **9.30** Graham Norton **12.30pm** Stu Elmore **4.00** Tim Cocker **7.00** Sunday Special **8.00** Bam **12.00** My 80s Playlist **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** James Merritt

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

7.00am Aled Jones **10.00** Andrew Marr **1.00pm** Catherine Bott **4.00** John Humphrys **7.00** Smooth Classics **9.00** Nature Notes with Alan Titchmarsh **10.00** Smooth Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Bank Holiday Monday | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Succession

Sky Atlantic/Now, 2am/9pm



And now, the end is near, but who will face the final curtain with a smile on their chops, and perhaps full control of a legacy media giant? Perhaps understandably HBO is not allowing anyone to see advance previews of this much-anticipated last episode. What we do know is that at the end of last week — and spoiler alert if you haven't yet seen it — things weren't looking too rosy for the Roy boys, Kendall and Roman. The chilling, shark-eyed president in waiting Jeryd Mencken looked to have reneged on his agreement to block Lukas Matsson's GoJo deal, with (the pregnant) Shiv manoeuvring herself into the right-winger's orbit, and securing the promise of a job of CEO in Matsson's new empire. This episode, called *With Open Eyes*, finds Kendall and Shiv shoring up their opposing interests ahead of a vote by the board with Logan's old guard seeming rather keen on a lucrative retirement. However, GoJo's dodgy subscriber figures, released amid the election hoo-ha, could still throw a late spanner in the works. Either way, Kendall wants to be top dog; and after his assured funeral oration he is looking the most match fit. Roman's breakdown in front of many of the western world's most powerful people had become a meme and he was last seen vainly battling protesters who were furious about the election. He seems to be Awol at the start of this episode. "Morons," Roman shouted. Which is rather what his dad thought of him and his brother. Whatever the outcome, in showrunner Jesse Armstrong we trust. He hasn't let us down so far. Goodness, we'll miss this show. Ben Dowell

Springwatch

BBC2, 7.30pm

The lambs are in the fields, the leaves are out and the watchers are back with three more weeks of live programming. They're at a new location, RSPB Arne in Dorset, and the team will also be exploring locations in north Wales and Anglesey. The first pre-recorded film shows the BBC correspondent Frank Gardner heading to Cumbria for a sighting of the hen harrier. Every programme will also feature the now familiar Mindful Moment, a 90-second film of "pure nature" as the BBC calls it, without music or voiceover that allows viewers to immerse themselves in sound and pictures. **BD**

Call Me Kate

Sky Arts/Now, 8pm

Katharine Hepburn almost bursts out of this film as a force of nature, a once-in-a generation talent, a slight eccentric who stood for no nonsense and ploughed her own furrow. She answered questions straight and dressed as she wanted, even if it was not the Hollywood way to wear trousers or dungarees when she was starting out. There is something slightly reverential about this film, but there is also no denying the influence of a woman who opened the doors for so many others. As she herself said, she "never realised . . . that women were supposed to be the inferior sex". Quite. **BD**

University Challenge

BBC2, 8.30pm

It's the final of this year's contest, but this is much more than a tussle between the universities of Bristol and Durham for the crown — it's also Jeremy Paxman's last episode. After 28 years the great man, who has Parkinson's disease, is bidding farewell and it is a characteristically low-key affair. "We're all old hands at this so let's just get on with it," he harrumphs at the start. After the trophy is presented by the writer Jung Chang, our man signs off with even less fuss. The show returns later this year with Amol Rajan. **BD**

Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland

BBC2, 9pm

This captivating series that allows ordinary people to recall their experiences of the Troubles continues with the music entrepreneur Terri Hooley remembering Belfast in the 1960s playing host to acts like the Rolling Stones and Jimi Hendrix. "And then the Troubles," he says. "I couldn't believe how quickly my lovely city became divided." Despair reached new heights when Hooley saw the "disgusting" spectacle of legs and limbs being shovelled into body bags on July 21, 1972, after a concerted IRA bombing campaign. **BD**

Films of the day

Let Him Go (15, 2020)

Film4, 9pm

Kevin Costner plays George, a taciturn Montana rancher and former lawman, in this tense thriller set in the early 1960s. Diane Lane, *below with Costner*, is his determined wife, Margaret. She's the shot-caller in their marriage, which is sorely tested when their beloved grown-up son James is killed off-camera in a riding accident. Two years on they are preparing for the nuptials of James's widow, Lorna, who is marrying into a sinister clan of hillbillies, led by the fearsome matriarch Blanche Weboy (Lesley Manville), and they effectively kidnap Lorna and George and Margaret's precious grandson. Another film would have accelerated here fully into revenge and retribution territory, but this drama is much more meditative. (109min) **Kevin Maher**



Goodfellas (18, 1990)

BBC2, 10pm

Definitive Martin Scorsese and the one towards which all his subsequent films have been reaching, *Goodfellas* is, put bluntly, the best movie of the director's career. From the opening credits swoosh to Robert De Niro, Joe Pesci and Ray Liotta in a blood-spattered intro, hard-cutting to red-lit freeze-frame, then soundbite ("As far back as I can remember, I always wanted to be a gangster"), followed by Tony Bennett's *Rags to Riches*, this movie announces its swaggering intent from the start and it never relents. The story of the mobster-turned-informant Henry Hill (Liotta) is told with both dizzying abandon and breathtaking precision. And the music? It's the best soundtrack ever. Fact. (146min) **KM**

Catch up



The Tragedy of Macbeth

BBC iPlayer

The director Yaël Farber delivers a bold vision of the Scottish play, filmed during its original run at the Almeida Theatre in 2021, brilliantly fusing the supernatural with brutish reality. James McArdle is a young Macbeth full of visceral energy and rage. Here is a man who really does believe that he can defy the Fates. True, using modern army weapons undercuts the aura of primordial forces, but you never for a moment doubt that this leader is pursued by demons. Saoirse Ronan, who was making her UK stage debut, lacks the same regal presence, but her descent into madness is convincing all the same. Tim Lutkin's sepulchral lighting, draping the actors in shades of grey, becomes almost a character in itself. **Clive Davis**

Regional programmes

• **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 6.00-6.30pm** The World's Most Expensive Sheepdogs: Our Lives (r) **7.00-7.30** Weatherman Walking **10.30** Rookie Nurses (r) **11.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You (r) **11.45-12.45am** Radio 1's Big Weekend Best Bits
• **BBC2 Wales As BBC2 except: 7.00-7.30pm** The One Show
• **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 6.00-6.30pm** Family Footsteps **10.30** The Peninsula Nurses. Part two of two. Nurse Lisa visits a farm shop in Kircubbin **11.00** Bump **11.30** Have I Got a Bit More News for You (r) **12.15am** Radio 1's Big Weekend Best Bits **1.15-6.00am** BBC News
• **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 10.00pm** 999 Faoi Oiliúint. New series. Documentary following trainee emergency workers **10.30** Rebels of Oz: Germaine, Clive, Barry and Bob. Part two of two. How the four Australians found fame (r) **11.35-12.20am** Sign Zone: Dr Xand's Con or Cure. Putting the three-second-rule to the test (r)
• **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 7.30-8.00pm** Scotland's Home of the Year **10.30** EastEnders **11.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You (r) **11.45** Radio 1's Big Weekend Best Bits. With The 1975 and Lewis Capaldi **12.50-6.00am** BBC News
• **ITV1 Wales As ITV1 except: 10.25-11.25pm** Love Your Garden (r)
• **STV As ITV1 except: 4.40-5.35am** Night Vision. News, sport and weather
• **BBC Scotland 2.00pm** Sign Zone: Beechgrove Garden (r) **2.30** Sign Zone: Landward (r) **3.00-4.00** Sign Zone: Inside the Zoo (r) **7.00** Beechgrove Garden (r) **7.30** Landward (r) **8.00** Trawlermen: Hunting the Catch (r) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City **10.30** The Scotts (r) **11.00** Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond (r) **11.30pm-Midnight** Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond (r)
• **S4C 6.00am** Cyw (r) **10.00** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **10.10** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **10.20** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **10.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Coverage of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru National Eisteddfod **12.00** News **12.05pm** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Including competitions for the younger children from the primary schools **1.55** News **2.00** Live Urdd: Defod y Cadeirio. The main ceremony of the day **2.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd **6.00** Copsan **6.15** Cynefin (r) **6.30** Pobol y Penwythnos (r) **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.45** News **8.00** Eisteddfod yr Urdd **9.30** Ffermio **10.00** Nôl i'r Gwersyll (r) **11.00** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer (r) **11.30-1.00** Eisteddfod yr Urdd (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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Bank Holiday Monday

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Rip Off Britain **10.45** Fraud Squad (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.20** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.30** The Repair Shop (r) **2.00** Money for Nothing. Jay Blades saves baskets, a table and a wingback chair from the tip (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. Property in West Sussex **3.45** Garden Rescue. New series. The team heads to Marlborough **4.30** Clean It, Fix It. New series. A team of cleaners and DIY experts visit Safiyah in Earl's Court **5.15** Pointless. Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Ria Lina **6.00** Scam Interceptors. Ethical hackers hunt down cyber criminals (r) **6.30** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.50** BBC Regional News; Weather



Steeltown Murders (9pm)

7.00 **The One Show** Jermaine Jenas and Anita Rani present

7.30 **EastEnders** Emotions are high as the nurse confirms Lola is near the end of her life

8.00 **RHS Chelsea Flower Show** Sophie Raworth and Joe Swift take a look back at the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show 2023

9.00 **Steeltown Murders** Through ground-breaking, familial DNA technology, the team in 2002 are given a breakthrough in their investigation and manage to locate the killer (3/4)

10.00 **BBC News at Ten**

10.20 **BBC Regional News**

10.30 **Have I Got a Bit More News for You** Steph McGovern hosts an extended episode of the satirical quiz (7/10) (r)

11.15 **Radio 1's Big Weekend Best Bits** Highlights of performances from the event in Dundee, featuring The 1975, Lewis Capaldi, Raye, Anne-Marie, Becky Hill, the Jonas Brothers, Jess Glynne, Flo and Wet Leg

12.15am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.20** BBC News

BBC2

6.45am Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) **7.15** Bargain Hunt (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Coast to Coast Food Festival (r) (SL) **8.30** Designing the Hebrides (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **1.00pm** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads. (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. The chef's tour reaches the south coast of England (r) **2.45** A Countryside Summer (r) **3.15** Big Cats About the House (r) **4.15** Back in Time for the Corner Shop. A family works in corner shops from different historical eras (r) **5.15** Flog It! From Ragley Hall (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Edith Bowman, Fern Brady, Will Kirk and Michaela Lewis (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo visits Middlesbrough's Transporter Bridge



The Springwatch team (7.30pm)

7.00 **Digging for Britain: The Greatest Discoveries** Archaeological digs (1/4) (r)

7.30 **Springwatch** New series. Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan present from their new base at RSPB Arne in Dorset, while Iolo Williams explores the neighbouring Purbeck Heaths. **See Viewing Guide** (1/12)

8.30 **University Challenge** The grand final of the student quiz. Last in the series. **See Viewing Guide**

9.00 **Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland** A look at the growth of paramilitary organisations in the early 1970s, with killings, explosions, intimidation and street disorder becoming widespread — with devastating effects. **See Viewing Guide** (2/5)

10.00 **Goodfellas (18, 1990)** An Irish-Italian boy from a poor neighbourhood grows up idolising the glamorous lifestyle of the Mafia. Taken under the wing of a mobster, he rises quickly in the world of organised crime. But he soon has to face the realities of murder and treachery, while his involvement in drug deals puts him at risk from both sides of the law. Martin Scorsese's crime drama, starring Ray Liotta, Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci. **See Film Choice**

12.20am Sign Zone: Countryfile. Sammi Kinghorn presents the first of three visits to a hill farm in Cumbria (r) (SL) **1.15** The Great British Sewing Bee. Twelve new sewers take part in the competition (r) (SL) **2.15-3.15** Turkey: Empire of Erdogan (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Celebrity interviews and studio discussion from a female perspective **1.45** ITV News; Weather **1.50** Regional News; Weather **1.55** FILM **Smallfoot (PG, 2018)** Animated adventure, with the voice of Channing Tatum **3.45** Tenable. A team of five family members answer questions about top 10 lists, then try to score a perfect 10 in the final round. Presented by Sally Lindsay (r) **4.50** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.50** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.35** Regional News; Weather **6.45** ITV News; Weather



Adventure Smallfoot (1.55pm)

7.00 **Emmerdale** Manpreet becomes suspicious about Claudette

7.30 **Coronation Street** As Gemma prepares for her wedding, Billy tries to persuade Paul to attend

8.00 **Britain's Got Talent** Ant and Dec host the first live semi-final of the talent contest, welcoming back acts that impressed judges Bruno Tonioli, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon during the auditions episodes in London and Manchester, in addition to a number of Golden Buzzer acts

10.00 **ITV News at Ten**; followed by Weather

10.25 **The 1% Club** Quiz hosted by Lee Mack in which the questions are all about logic and common sense, with 100 contestants in every show having a chance of winning up to £100,000 (6/8) (r)

11.25 **1989 Liverpool v Arsenal Title Decider: ITV Football Classic** Elton Welsby presents extended highlights of the memorable match at Anfield (r)

12.30am English Football League Highlights. Action from the League One play-off final, which came from Wembley Stadium (r) **1.15** Teleshopping **3.00** All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite (r) **4.40** Unwind with ITV **5.35** Save Money: Good Diet (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.00am Countdown (r) **6.40** Cheers (r) **7.40** The King of Queens (r) **8.30** Frasier (r) **10.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **11.00** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown **3.00** A Place in the Sun. A couple from Stockport want a holiday home around the western Dordogne region (r) **4.00** The Great House Giveaway. An accounts manager and a kitchen and bedroom fitter transform a crumbling house (r) **5.00** Sarah Beeny's New Country Lives. New series. Plucky country life newbies embrace their fresh starts in beautiful rural retreats **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer accidentally declares himself bankrupt (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Ethan may have found a way to make all of Sienna's dreams come true (r)



Rescue: Extreme Medics (9pm)

7.00 **Channel 4 News**

7.30 **Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It: Brilliant Builds** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer look back at loft conversions (2/5) (r)

8.00 **Sarah Beeny's New Life in the Country** Sarah and Graham measure up an area of lawn for a greenhouse, and take Raffey and Laurie to the International Worm Charming Festival in Blackawton, Devon (7/7)

9.00 **Rescue: Extreme Medics** The trauma team rush to a 67-year-old who has sustained a life-threatening head injury after falling down a hillside while walking with his sister

10.00 **First Dates** A beauty queen bricklayer goes looking for love with a bar manager, while two students with very different priorities when it comes to conversation try to make a connection (5/6) (r)

11.05 **24 Hours in A&E** A woman is rushed in following a suspected stroke, and another is sent in by her GP with chronic back pain, and doctors worry she may be suffering an underlying spinal injury (r)

12.05am Porn King: The Rise & Fall of Ron Jeremy (r) **1.05** The World's Most Luxurious Holidays (r) **2.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) **2.50** Grand Designs (r) (SL) **3.45** The Dog House (r) **4.40** Love It or List It (r) **5.10** Britain's Scenic Railways (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley **12.15pm** Alexis Conran **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Rose and Mali cannot reach a compromise (r) **2.15** FILM **Mystery 101: An Education in Murder (PG, TVM, 2020)** A writer's research prompts the police to revisit a famous murder case. Mystery thriller starring Jill Wagner and Kristoffer Polaha **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. Paul takes on expert Paul Hayes **5.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Documentary following Brits who moved to Spain for sun and a low-cost life (r) **5.55** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. Brahms & Liszt Challenge hope to take home the rolling cash prize (r) **6.30** Eggheads. The Lower League Lads try their luck (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



An Education in Murder (2.15pm)

7.00 **Traffic Cops** PC Andy Swift is on the lookout for a high-value car stolen from a dealership, while PC Dave Shaw follows a vehicle suspected of being used in house burglary (9/11) (r)

7.55 **5 News Update**

8.00 **Police Interceptors** Officers battle to stop a dangerous driver in a stolen lorry on the A1, but after a successful strike with a heavy-duty stinger, the occupant carries on until he runs out of road; followed by 5 News Update

9.00 **Police: Suspect No 1** Detectives investigate after a violent attack on a group of friends on a night out leaves one of them critically injured and fighting for his life in hospital (4/6)

10.00 **Police: Night Shift 999** An altercation in a bar leads to a foot chase for officers through Gloucester city centre, while a 999 caller reports a burglar stealing radiators from unoccupied houses (r)

11.05 **999: Critical Condition** A patient is brought into resus with suspected sepsis, and a horse rider is rushed into the Emergency department after her horse threw her to the ground (r)

12.05am Police Interceptors **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Good Girls' Guide to Kinky Sex **3.50** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **4.40** Wildlife SOS (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News **5.35** Fireman Sam (SL) **5.45** Thomas (SL)

Bank Holiday Monday | Digital guide



John C Reilly
The actor stars in the drama Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty
Sky Atlantic, 10.40pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max
6.30 David Bull
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham The host tears his way through the morning newspapers
1.00pm Ian Collins The host cuts through the echo-chamber with monologues and stimulating debates
4.00 Vanessa Feltz The host guides you through the big stories of the day from the world of politics, current affairs and showbiz
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Live
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored An hour of debate and interviews with the world's leading figures
9.00 The Talk A panel of opinionated famous faces debate the hot topics everybody's talking about
10.00 First Edition
11.00-12.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Top Gear (1/5)
8.00 The Agency: Unfiltered Jess and Charlotte are given an event each to organise on their own (3/6)
8.30 The Agency: Unfiltered Competition for a promotion in the agency comes to a head (4/6)
9.00 I Kissed a Boy The dinner party concludes with heated words and bruised relationships, but the love game gets back on track when Dannii introduces two new boys, just in time for the Kiss Off (6/8)
9.50 Unreal! with Olivia Neill TikTok, YouTube and general social media icon Olivia Neill throws herself into virtual reality, avatar first, to see if she can find love in a digital world
10.20 Fleabag (5/6)
10.45 Fleabag (6/6)
11.15-12.05am I Kissed a Boy (6/8)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm The Pennine Way Adventurer Paul Rose explores the 268-mile national trail (1/4)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain Castles of north Wales (2/6)
8.00 Italy's Invisible Cities Alexander Armstrong and Dr Michael Scott explore Florence. Last in the series
9.00 Britain's Lost Masterpieces Emma Dabiri and Bendor Grosvenor travel to Glasgow to investigate a long-lost picture of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, who was the lover of James VI of Scotland (1/4)
10.00 Britain's Biggest Warship Life on board aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth (1/3)
11.00-12.05am Kate Prince: Imagine: Every Move She Makes Alan Yentob meets dancer and choreographer Kate Prince

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm The Dog House Documentary set inside Woodgreen animal charity, following staff who are committed to matching their homeless dogs with prospective owners (1/8)
7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud follows the progress of Bram and Lisa Vis and their two children, who want to create an ambitious super home on the Isle of Wight
9.00 Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz take on carpenter Mike's 1980 Ford Escort RS2000 (4/10)
10.00 Inside Jaguar: Making a Million Pound Car Mark Evans follows the creation of the Lightweight E-type the manufacturer's most expensive car ever
11.00-12.05am Billion Pound Cruise Compilation episode looking behind the scenes of the *Symphony of the Seas*

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm Game of Thrones Tyrion is sent to greet a royal party from Dorne, Jon Snow finds himself on trial at Castle Black, and Daenerys heads to the slave city of Meereen (1/10) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones In King's Landing, the day of King Joffrey's wedding to Margaery Tyrell arrives and Bran experiences a series of visions (2/10) (R)
9.00 Succession The final-ever episode of the drama about troubled media dynasty the Roys, Starring Jeremy Strong, Sarah Snook and Kieran Culkin. **See Viewing Guide** (10/10)
10.40 Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty Drama starring John C Reilly and Jason Clarke (1/10) (R)
11.50-1.00am Billions Lara plans a lavish birthday celebration for Axe (9/12) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

7.00pm Spector Documentary about music producer Phil Spector, looking at his life and career and the events that led to him shooting Lana Clarkson dead in 2003 (1/4) (R)
8.00 Spector A look at how Phil Spector gained a sinister reputation as his success brought paranoia, then examining how he went to trial after Lana Clarkson's death was determined to be murder (2/4) (R)
9.00 FILM Hitsville: The Making of Motown (12, 2019) Rare performances, interviews and rarely seen footage come together to paint a picture of the history and origins of Motown
11.10-12.10am The Man Who Played with Fire Jan Stocklassa uncovers a surprising motive for Olof Palme's murder (3/4) (R)

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

6.25pm FILM Shazam! (12, 2019) Comedy adventure starring Zachary Levi and Mark Strong
9.00 Family Guy Brian has a brush with death
9.30 Family Guy Peter joins the New England Patriots American football team
10.00 Family Guy Quagmire proposes to Peter's housemaid
10.30 Family Guy
11.00 Family Guy
11.30 American Dad!
11.55-12.25am American Dad!

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.55pm Heartbeat PC Ventress's old commando unit turns up
8.00 Vera DCI Vera Stanhope finds a kindred spirit in the son of a murdered woman and comes to realise the key to the case is hidden deep in his memory
10.00 Scott & Bailey A man acquitted of rape and murder is found dead. Meanwhile, Rachel receives devastating news
11.05-12.05am Scott & Bailey A porn star is suspected of murdering her husband

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

7.10pm FILM The Scorpion King (PG, 2002) Fantasy adventure starring Dwayne Johnson and Steven Brand
9.00 Isle of Man TT: Hutchy TT Legend A look at the near 20-year TT career of Ian Hutchinson
10.00 English Football League Highlights Action from the League One play-off final
11.00 River Monsters
11.30 River Monsters
12.00-1.05am Isle of Man TT: Hutchy TT Legend

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks
7.30 The Big Bang Theory
8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht Madison tries to earn Jenna's trust
9.00 Gogglebox
10.00 Made in Chelsea Miles tries to interfere in Yas's relationship
11.00 Impractical Jokers New series. Joe, Sal, Murr and Q act as receptionists in a waiting room
11.35 Impractical Jokers The guys play a game of try not to laugh using a two-way mirror
12.00-1.10am Gogglebox

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games With Kelly Cates
7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games With Gary Delaney
8.20 Room 101 Jason Manford, Paloma Faith and Deborah Meaden discuss their pet hates
9.00 Live at the Apollo With comedians Angela Barnes, Sarah Keyworth and Tim Renkow
10.00 QI XL With Aisling Bea
11.00 Mock the Week
11.40-12.40am Have I Got a Bit More News for You

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

7.00pm Father Brown The clerical sleuth encounters a voodoo priest who is intent on winning back the woman he loves
8.00 The Last Detective Obstinate traditionalist Detective 'Dangerous' Davies is forced to prove his mettle when a routine inquiry uncovers an unsolved murder case.
10.15 New Tricks The detectives and their new boss investigate an immigrant's murder
11.35-1.50am Silent Witness Sam Ryan tracks a double murderer

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Bangers and Cash A convertible Triumph Herald brings a few smiles on auction day
8.00 How To Build A Motor Car A team of Brits try to prove that they have built the world's fastest car
9.00 Abandoned Engineering Exploring a jaw-dropping collection of castles in Turkey
10.00 Bangers and Cash A Roller and a Rover are auctioned (2/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys (14/15)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.25pm The Beatles: Made on Merseyside How America influenced the emergence of the Mersey Beat sound
8.10 Apache Warrior Documentary following an elite US army helicopter squadron in Iraq
10.00 From Hell to Hollywood The story of Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Nick Ut
12.00-2.00am The Beatles: Made on Merseyside How America influenced the emergence of the Mersey Beat sound

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Discovering: Peter O'Toole A look at the life of the star of stage and screen (1/13)
8.00 Katharine Hepburn: Call Me Kate Documentary capturing the actress's spirit and determination. **See Viewing Guide**
10.00 Discovering: Jane Fonda Movie experts look back at the life and career of Jane Fonda, who won Oscars for her performances in Klute and Coming Home (2/13)
11.00-12.15am The Legendary Bing Crosby Memorable performances

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

5.40pm Discovering Bigfoot
8.00 Deep Water Salvage Jeremy Birch is called upon to raise a concrete-hulled vessel
9.00 Secret Societies: In the Shadows A look at Le Cercle
10.00 Greatest Heists with Pierce Brosnan The actor recalls the 1972 United California Bank Job (5/8)
11.00 Great Escapes with Morgan Freeman A mass escape from a German prisoner-of-war camp (5/8)
12.00-1.00am Looting History Lost art recovered in 2012 (8/8)

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Football's Funniest Moments Comical incidents from the Premier League
8.00 NCIS: Los Angeles The team suspects four shootings are connected to the Drona Project
9.00 Poker Face Crime drama starring Natasha Lyonne (1/10)
10.10 Poker Face Wounded and on the run, Charlie is forced to make a pitstop in New Mexico (2/10)
11.20-12.30am Last King of the Cross John recovers from his stab wounds (2/10)

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation A collision between a passenger plane and a small private aircraft
8.00 New Air Force One: Flying Fortress A first look at the overhaul of the two presidential planes
9.00 Inside Airport Lost & Found The journey of items left at Seattle International Airport
10.00 Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz restore a 1953 Riley RMF
11.00 Hitler's Death Squad
12.00-1.00am Air Crash Investigation Documentary

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Bitchin' Rides
8.00 Roadkill David Freiburger and Mike Finnegan look at the battle of dirt-cheap beats
8.30 Drew's Dream Car
10.00 Roadworthy Rescues Derek finds an AMC Rebel SST convertible
11.00 Naked and Afraid XL
12.00-1.00am Alaskan Steel Men

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Sick of It (6/6)
7.30 The Office (US)
8.00 The Conners
8.30 The Office (US)
9.00 Barry (8/8)
9.40 The Righteous Gemstones
11.00 Sex and the City (1/12)
12.00-12.30am Miracle Workers: Oregon Trail (7/10)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends
9.00 Impractical Jokers
9.30 Impractical Jokers
10.00 Impractical Jokers: Filming with the Stars
10.30 Impractical Jokers
11.00 Reno 911!
12.00-1.00am Rhod Gilbert's Growing Pains

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm The Vicar of Dibley
7.35 The Vicar of Dibley
8.15 The Vicar of Dibley
9.00 The Vicar of Dibley Geraldine tries her hand at fundraising
9.40 The Vicar of Dibley
10.20 The Vicar of Dibley
11.00-1.00am Vicar of Dibley: Inside Out Comedy.

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

6.00pm MasterChef Australia
7.30 Ambulance Australia A rookie paramedic faces a tough case
8.30 Inside the Ambulance
9.00 24 Hours in A&E A 12-year-old girl requires extensive surgery
10.00 999 Rescue Squad
11.00-12.15am Louis Theroux: Dark States: Trafficking Sex

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Death in Paradise A famous radio presenter is murdered live on air (7/8)
8.00 Death in Paradise (8/8)
9.00 Death in Paradise (4/8)
10.00 Father Brown (2/10)
11.00 Death in Paradise (5/8)
12.00-1.20am Death in Paradise detective drama (6/8)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

2.00pm-6.00 Live EFL Coverage of the League One play-off final which comes from Wembley Stadium (Kick-off **3.00**)
6.30 Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Durham v Nottinghamshire Outlaws
10.00 Sky Sports News
10.30 Back Pages Tonight
11.00-12.00 Sky Sports News
12.30am Live NBA Basketball
1.30-4.00 Live NBA Basketball: Boston Celtics v Miami Heat (Tip-off **1.30**)

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm PL Review A look back at the weekend's action
8.00 Soccer AM: The Best Bits Highlights from the Saturday morning football show
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink joins Gary Neville to reflect on some of his best moments
9.00 PL Review
10.00 Soccer AM: The Best Bits
10.30 PL Highlights
11.00 PL Highlights
11.30-12.00 PL Highlights



Call Me Kate is a documentary about the actress Katharine Hepburn (Sky Arts, 8pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

6.25pm Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Durham v Nottinghamshire Outlaws Coverage of the North Group encounter from Seat Unique Riverside, Chester-le-Street
10.00 Captain's Log A look back Michael Vaughan's time as England captain
11.00 IPL Action from this year's final from Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad
12.00 Vitality T20 Blast Cricket
3.35am-3.50 Ashes Greats

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

7.00pm Uefa Champions League Magazine News and updates from the European competition
7.30 Live Serie A Football from Italy's top division
9.45 BT Sport Goals Reload
10.15 What I Wore: Rio Ferdinand
10.30 ESPN FC Presents: Gab & Juls Gab Marcotti and Julien Laurens discuss all the latest news, rumour and gossip
11.00-12.00 WWE Raw Highlights
1.00-4.15am Live WWE Monday Night Raw Wrestling coverage

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

6.00pm Live NCAA Championship Coverage of the College Men's Lacrosse Championship
8.30 The Irrelevant Giant A look back at the career of John Tuggle, the 1983 NFL draft's Mr. Irrelevant, who was anything but irrelevant to legendary coach Bill Parcells
8.45 30 for 30 Shorts
9.00-12.30am Live MLB: Houston Astros v Minnesota Twins (Start-time **9.10**) Coverage of the American League match from Minute Maid Park

Bank Holiday Monday

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

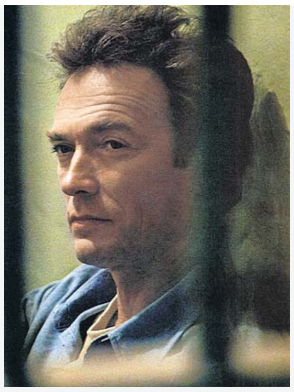
11.00am Sister Act (PG, 1992) Comedy starring Whoopi Goldberg and Harvey Keitel **1.05pm Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (PG, 1993)** Comedy sequel starring Whoopi Goldberg and Kathy Najimy **3.25 The Great Escape (PG, 1963)** Second World War drama with Steve McQueen and Richard Attenborough **6.55 Men in Black (PG, 1997)** Sci-fi comedy starring Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones **9.00 Let Him Go (15, 2020)** Premiere. A retired sheriff and his wife, grieving over the death of their son, set out to find their only grandson. Crime drama starring Kevin Costner. **See Film Choice 11.15-1.30am The Long Good Friday (18, 1980)** Gangland thriller starring Bob Hoskins

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Charlie Chan at the Circus (U, 1936) Mystery starring Warner Oland **7.25 Mantrap (PG, 1953)** Mystery starring Paul Henreid **9.05 Here Come The Huggetts (U, 1948)** Comedy sequel starring Jack Warner and Kathleen Harrison **10.50 Wing and a Prayer (PG, 1944)** Second World War drama starring Don Ameche **12.45pm Doctor in the House (PG, 1954)** Comedy with Dirk Bogarde and Kenneth More **2.30 Crown Court 3.00 The Bargee (PG, 1964)** Comedy with Harry H Corbett and Ronnie Barker **5.10 Swinging UK 5.45 When Mike Met Tommy 6.00 The Footage Detectives 7.00 The Champions 8.00 The Main Chance 9.00 Trapped (PG, 1973)** Thriller starring James Brolin, Susan Clark and Earl Holliman **10.50-11.55pm Secret Army**

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am GREAT! Movie News 9.10 Secrets That Kill (12, 2020) Thriller starring Jillian Murray and Lisa Thornhill **10.55 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (12, 1994)** Comedy starring Jim Carrey, Sean Young and Courteney Cox **12.30pm Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls (12, 1995)** Comedy sequel starring Jim Carrey and Simon Callow **2.20 Godzilla (PG, 1998)** Monster adventure remake starring Matthew Broderick, Jean Reno and Maria Pitillo **5.00 Solaris (12, 2002)** Sci-fi drama starring George Clooney and Viola Davis **7.05 The Covenant (12, 2006)** Supernatural horror starring Steven Strait, Sebastian Stan and Laura Ramsey



Escape from Alcatraz (TCM Movies, 9pm)

9.00 Unbreakable (12, 2000) Drama starring Bruce Willis and Samuel L Jackson **11.15-1.35am Tears of the Sun (15, 2003)** Action drama starring Bruce Willis, Monica Bellucci and Cole Hauser

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.00am Hollywood's Best Film Directors 6.35 TCM Shorts 7.05 Off Set 7.20 To Trap a Spy (PG, 1966) Spy thriller with Robert Vaughn and David McCallum **9.15 Murder Most Foul (U, 1964)** Miss Marple mystery starring Margaret Rutherford **11.05 Fighter Squadron (U, 1948)** Second World War adventure with Robert Stack and Edmond O'Brien **1.00pm Waterloo (U, 1970)** Drama starring Rod Steiger and Christopher Plummer **3.45 Battle of the Bulge (PG, 1965)** Second World War drama starring Robert Shaw **7.05 Torpedo Run (U, 1958)** Adventure starring Glenn Ford and Ernest Borgnine **9.00 Escape from Alcatraz (15, 1979)** Fact-based prison drama starring Clint Eastwood and Patrick McGoohan **11.20-2.05am The Exorcist: The Version You've Never Seen (18, 1973)** Supernatural horror starring Linda Blair

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.25pm Alone Together (15, 2022) Drama starring Katie Holmes and Jim Sturgess **2.15 The Cinema List: The 90s 2.30 Summering (12, 2022)** Drama starring Lia Barnett **4.10 Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG, 2022)** Musical comedy starring Javier Bardem **6.00 To Catch A Killer (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Shailene Woodley, Ben Mendelsohn and Ralph Ineson **8.00 Dead Shot (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Aml Ameen **9.50 Hallowe'en Ends (18, 2022)** Horror sequel starring Jamie Lee Curtis **11.50-2.00am The Portable Door (PG, 2023)** Fantasy starring Christoph Waltz

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

6.00am Rosie Wright and Luke Jones with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Mornings on Times Radio **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Richie Anderson **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** The Best of Radio 2's Piano Room **9.00** The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **2.30am** One Hit Wonders **3.00** Pick of the Pops (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast 9.00 Essential Classics 12.00 Composer of the Week: Domenico Scarlatti The life of the Italian Baroque composer **1.00pm Live Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Mariam Batsashvili performs in a recital from Wigmore Hall. Chopin (Ballade No 1 in G minor, Op 23); Liszt (*Après une lecture du Dante from Années de pèlerinage*); Schubert (Impromptu in F minor) and Liszt (*Hungarian Rhapsody* No 14 in F minor) **2.00 Afternoon Concert** Penny Gore introduces Alain Altinoglu conducting the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra in Ravel's orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, and Chausson's *Poeme* **4.30 New Generation Artists** Helen Charlston sings Vaughan Williams's *Four Last Songs* **5.00 In Tune** Music news **7.00 Classical Mixtape 7.30 Radio 3 in Concert** Lahav Shani conducts Mahler's Symphony No 2 in C minor — *Resurrection*, at the Rotterdam Philharmonic's Memorial Concert for the Bombardment of Rotterdam **9.00 Ultimate Calm** Olafur Arnalds creates a soothing soundtrack reflective of sunset **10.00 Music Matters** Tom Service talks to conductor and composer Iván Fischer (r) **10.45 The Essay: Charles Aznavour in Five Songs** A look at the legacy of the singer **11.00 Night Tracks 12.30am Through the Night** (r)

Today's pick

What Are the Railways For?
Radio 4, 8pm



As the government and business community continue to grapple with the future of Britain's railways, the reporter Daniel Brittain examines the point of them. The question, he says, is rarely asked because policy is often made in the wake of a crisis or disaster or imminent removal of a franchise from a failing operator. He travels to Greater Manchester, meeting people on trains, people who want to be on trains, and those who run the railways, to understand how the industry has changed, and what the place of rail in Britain's society, economy and culture might be.
Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today 5.58 Tweet of the Day (r) **6.00 Today 9.00 Start the Week 9.45 Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History** By Jonathan Kennedy (1/5) **9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 Blood on the Dance Floor** The twists continue (6/6) **11.30 The Boy in the Peking Hotel** Documentary **12.01pm (LW) Shipping 12.04 You and Yours 1.00 The World at One 1.45 Oliver Burkeman's Inconvenient Truth** New series. How convenience has warped humankind's existence **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 This Cultural Life** (r) **3.00 Round Britain Quiz 3.30 The Food Programme** (r) **4.00 The Sky's the Limit?** A look at the future of airports **4.30 The Digital Human 5.00 PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 The Unbelievable Truth** New series. With Alan Davies, Holly Walsh, Angela Barnes and Henning Wehn **7.00 The Archers** Brian makes a surprising discovery **7.15 Front Row** Arts news **8.00 What are the Railways For?** Examining what Britain's railways are for. **See Choice 8.30 Analysis** New series. The schemes that have worked to reduce knife crime **9.00 Living With AI** (r) **9.30 Start the Week** (r) **10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The House of Doors** (1/10) **11.00 Gaby's Talking Pictures** Comedy panel show (1/6) (r) **11.30 The Spark** (r) **12.00 News and Weather 12.30am Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History** (1/5) (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am The Big Green Money Show **5.30** The Big Green Money Show **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **9.00** 5 Live Sport: 5 Live Cricket **10.00** Colin Murray **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Laura Woods **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** David Bull **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle. Debate **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am Round the Horne **8.30** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful **9.00** The Write Stuff **9.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet **10.00** Sorry Boys You Failed the Audition **10.45** The New Elizabethans **11.00** The Events at Black Tor **11.30** The Wolf Far Hence **12.00** One Two Three Four: The Beatles in Time **12.15pm** The Citadel **12.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar **1.00** Round the Horne **1.30** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful **2.00** The Write Stuff **2.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet **3.00** Sorry Boys You Failed the Audition. By Ray Connolly **3.45** The New Elizabethans **4.00** The Events at Black Tor **4.30** The Wolf Far Hence **5.00** One Two Three Four: The Beatles in Time **5.15** The Citadel **5.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar **6.00** Round the Horne **6.30** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful **7.00** The Write Stuff **7.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet **8.00** Radiolab **8.55** Inheritance Tracks **9.00** Mastertapes **9.30** Rebus: Death Is Not the End **10.00** Just a Minute **10.30** And Now in Colour **11.00** The News Quiz **11.30** The Skivers

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** CrowdScience **10.00** News **10.06** The History Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Conversation **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** CrowdScience **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.06** From Our Own Correspondent **8.30** Discovery **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** The Conversation **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The History Hour **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** The Documentary **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** In the Studio

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Gemma Cairney **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Huw Stephens. Sitting in for Steve Lamacq **7.00** Loud and Proud with Skin & Grove **9.00** Big Joanie **12.00** Pet Shop Boys at the BBC **1.00am** Pet Shop Boys Live. Concerts from 2006, 2007 and 2019

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Steve Denyer **2.00pm** Tim Cocker **6.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Aled Jones **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Tuesday 30 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Gender Wars

Channel 4, 10pm

You could be forgiven for thinking that the noisy people outside the Cambridge Union in this film's opening scene are having a party of some sort. They are, in fact, furious that the gender-critical academic Kathleen Stock had been invited to a debate about whether people ever have a right to offend others. One has to respect the Channel 4 management for wading into this hornet's nest of a subject where the increasingly polarised extremes look as if they will never find agreement. Indeed, as one talking head says, it may be the case that many are too invested in the fight to find common ground. But it is an even-handed analysis, which hears from transgender voices and from Stock, who left her position as a philosophy professor at Sussex University after student protests. Stock remains defiant, as does Julie Bindel, a lifelong campaigner against male violence who now finds herself labelled a terf (trans-exclusionary radical feminist). So who is dehumanising whom? For their part, some trans voices (including the legal scholar and transgender activist Professor Stephen Whittle) claim that their own hard-won battles are being erased. Strangely the focus is almost entirely on female-only spaces and the Gender Recognition Act, and the issue of trans women competing in female sports is not explored at all. But there are some signs of hope, not least from Katy Jon Went of the Campaign for Trans Dialogue who goes for a pleasant drink at the close with the veteran feminist campaigner Linda Bellos. If only everyone could have the kind of lively but polite dialogue that they engage in. Ben Dowell



The Blackouts of '74: When Britain Went Dark

Channel 5, 9pm

The grim 1970s continue to exert a powerful pull on our imaginations, possibly because the era speaks to our age of soaring prices and strikes. Cue this well-researched film that explores the nationwide household blackouts that began in January 1974 after the prime minister Ted Heath's ill-fated decision to take on the unions. It is full of contemporary archive and packed with detail, such as the fact that people drove to France to buy candles, which were in short supply. **BD**

Close to Vermeer

BBC4, 9pm

Can you consider yourself a serious arts aficionado if you haven't made it to the Rijksmuseum's Vermeer exhibition? It's been the art world's hottest ticket, but if you haven't been, you can at least catch this beautiful film by Suzanne Raes that shows how it was brought together. At its centre is the passionate and engaging Gregor Weber, the show's curator. The exhibition is his last big dream before he retires. It's an arts story in real time suffused with deep and profound insight into the genius of the painter and the powerful feelings that his work elicits. **BD**

White House Plumbers

Sky Atlantic/Now, 9pm

The promise of an HBO comedy about the Watergate scandal — a ready-made tale of *Veep*-like ineptitude — is certainly a mouthwatering one. But the first episode of this caper may leave some people disappointed. For one thing it assumes a lot of knowledge about the break-in, and while the names of Deep Throat and Howard Hunt will be familiar to many, the scene-setting opener is short on laughs. Still, there is the promise of some comic mileage in Woody Harrelson's self-important, Commie-loathing Hunt. **BD**

Ghosts US

BBC1, 10.40pm/11pm

This CBS remake of the BBC's delightful haunted house sitcom was a hit in the US even if some British viewers who caught it on BBC3 regarded it as a slightly charmless imitation. Still, there are lots of episodes (all about 20 minutes each) and some of the characters survive more or less intact. Aristocrat Fanny is Hetty (Rebecca Wisocky), while Pat, the scout leader with an arrow through his neck, has become Pete (Richie Moriarty in much the same get-up). But Robin the caveman is now Thorfinn the Viking, and Julian Fawcett, Simon Farnaby's trouserless Tory MP, is a grasping Wall Street trader called Trevor. **BD**

Catch up

Matt Willis: Fighting Addiction
BBC iPlayer

A serious look at addiction in this raw and honest documentary from Matt Willis, *right*, a member of the Noughties pop band Busted. After years of drug and alcohol abuse, Willis faces a daily struggle to stay clean. He is "terrified" of relapsing so sets out to find out more about addiction and what help is available. He revisits his childhood home with his brother to see if the cause of his addictions can be found in his past. Willis is still married to the TV presenter Emma Willis (the couple have three children), who tearfully reveals how his addictions affected the family. Willis has been through rehab four times in the past two decades, and relapsed during Busted's 2016 reunion tour after being sober for eight years. **Joe Clay**



Regional programmes

• **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** Spotlight. Investigating the double life led by British spy Freddie Scappaticci **11.10** Ghosts US (r) **11.35** Ghosts US (r) **11.55** FA Cup: The Road to Wembley. A review of this season's FA Cup, ahead of the final **12.30am** Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star. The MUAs turn to TikTok to showcase their make-up tricks (r) **1.30-6.00am** BBC News
• **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 7.00-7.30pm** River City (r)
• **STV As ITV1 except: 10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.10** On Assignment. Controversy surrounding one of the world's largest construction projects in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula **11.40** Bradley & Barney Walsh: Breaking Dad (r) **12.05-3.00am** Teleshopping **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision
• **UTV As ITV1 except: 10.45pm** View from Stormont. A report on the latest political developments in Belfast, London and Dublin **11.40-12.10am** On Assignment
• **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** Inside the Zoo. Keepers and vets work through the night to help a giant panda get pregnant (r) **8.00** Paramedics on Scene (r) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Greetings from Scotland (r) **11.00** Crime Files (r) **11.30pm-Midnight** Raiders of the Lost Archive (r)
• **S4C 6.00am** Cyw: Sali Mali (r) **6.05** Jamborî (r) **6.15** Guto Gwningen (r) **6.30** Gwdihw (r) **6.45** Digbi Draig (r) **7.00** Caru Canu (r) **7.05** Sam Tân **7.15** Sbarc (r) **7.30** Octonots (r) **7.45** Kim a Cet a Twrch (r) **8.00** Og y Draenog Hapus (r) **8.10** Pablo (r) **8.25** Asra (r) **8.40** Abadas (r) **8.50** Shwshaswyn (r) **8.55** Loti Borloti (r) **9.10** Ynys Broc Môr Lili (r) **9.20** Dwylo'r Enfys (r) **9.35** Sion y Chef (r) **9.45** Ysbyty Cyw Bach (r) **10.00** Sali Mali (r) **10.05** Sam Tân (r) **10.15** Kim a Cet a Twrch (r) **10.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Heledd Cynwal and Trystan Ellis Morris present live coverage of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru National Eisteddfod in Carmarthenshire **12.00** News **12.05pm** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Live coverage of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru National Eisteddfod **1.55** News **2.00** Live Urdd: Defod y Cadeirio. Live broadcast of the main Ceremony of the day **2.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Live coverage featuring the rest of the competitions for the older children of the primary school **6.00** Copsan. Tom makes a revelation **6.15** Cynefin (r) **6.30** Ffilmiau Ddoe (r) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Eisteddfod yr Urdd **9.25** News **9.30** Qatar: Cymru Ar Ben Y Byd (r) **10.30** Blacowt **11.30-1.00** Eisteddfod yr Urdd (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

Films of the day

Ain't Them Bodies Saints (15, 2013)
GREAT! Movies, 9pm

The director David Lowery's beautifully shot film has drawn comparisons with Terrence Malick's *Badlands*, both thematically and for its poetic use of the 1970s Texas Hill Country backdrop. Casey Affleck is suitably wiry and intense as escaped convict Bob Muldoon. Having busted out of jail, he makes his way across country to catch up with his wife Ruth Guthrie (Rooney Mara, *below with Affleck*) and the child he has yet to meet. The third character in this dramatic triptych is local sheriff Patrick Wheeler (Ben Foster). Rooney and Affleck never overplay their parts in fine performances that make you long for a smile from one of them. The homespun score adds plenty of atmosphere to what the director describes as "a cinematic folk song". (105min) **Wendy Ide**



Denmark (15, 2019)
BBC2, 11.15pm

Rafe Spall plays the unemployed and quietly misanthropic Herb, who is so repulsed by life in Wales (rubbish flat, no money, horrible neighbours, thugs on the streets) that he'd rather spend the rest of his days in an open prison in Denmark (he learns about the conditions there from a TV documentary). It's a promising premise, especially when Herb hops on board the ferry with a fake gun and criminal intent. Yet once in Europe it hinges on an implausible relationship between the often abrasive and self-righteous Herb (Spall frequently delivers moments of angst with blinkless serial-killer stares) and the gorgeous, kind and perpetually smiling Danish bar manager Mathilda (Simone Lykke) who instantly, bafflingly, falls for him. (91min) **Kevin Maher**

Also available online and on tablet
Digital subscribers can now use our interactive seven-day guide with comprehensive listings of all TV channels
thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Tuesday 30

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Rip Off Britain **10.45** Fraud Squad (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Bear's date with Claudia does not go to plan **2.15** Money for Nothing. Items include a pair of tired chairs and a collection of garden cast-offs **3.00** Escape to the Country. Helping a couple looking for a new home in Norfolk **3.45** Garden Rescue. A woman from Merthyr Tydfil asks for help from the team to create a wildlife friendly garden **4.30** Clean It, Fix It. The team help a family in Chelmsford **5.15** Pointless. Quiz series, hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Ria Lina **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather


The US take on Ghosts (10.40pm)

7.00 The One Show With Roman Kemp and Angellica Bell

7.30 EastEnders Lola's family gather to say their goodbyes as her condition worsens, and Callum finally gets through to Ben

8.00 Waterloo Road Preston and Kai give the school something to talk about, the school poetry slam gets off to a rocky start, Amy comes face to face with her crush after an awkward encounter, and a technical faux pas exposes everything (3/7)

9.00 MasterChef Finals week begins with the four hopefuls heading to Istanbul, where they are paired up to cook two local dishes rooted in centuries of tradition. They then work a busy lunch service with chef Fatih Tutak at Turk

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 Ghosts US American version of the British comedy series. **See Viewing Guide** (r)

11.00 Ghosts US After suffering a concussion, Sam now sees the ghosts. **See Viewing Guide** (r)

11.25 FA Cup: The Road to Wembley A musical review of this season's FA Cup, ahead of the final between Manchester City and Manchester United

12.00 Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star. The MUAs are joined by Cat Burns as they go live on TikTok to showcase as many tricks as they can with just one product to impress CEO, P Louise (r) **1.00am** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.05** BBC News

BBC2

6.35am Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) **7.05** Garden Rescue (r) **7.50** Sign Zone: Hidden Treasures of the National Trust (r) (SL) **8.50** Lifeline (r) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **12.15pm** The Super League Show (r) **1.00** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. The chef explores the West Country (r) **2.45** A Countryside Summer (r) **3.15** Big Cats About the House. An injured cheetah needs Giles's help (r) **4.15** Back in Time for the Corner Shop. A family get a taste of corner shop life in the 1900s (r) **5.15** Flog It! From Norwich Cathedral (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Edith Bowman, Fern Brady, Will Kirk and Martin Lewis (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. From Whitby to Robin Hood's Bay


Forensics: the Real CSI (9pm)

7.00 Digging for Britain In Scotland and northern England, Alice Roberts investigates an Ice Age camp, a medieval skeleton and the earliest evidence of salt making in Britain (6/6) (r)

8.00 Springwatch Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan present further reports from RSPB Arne in Dorset, Michaela Strachan heads out in search of all six of Britain's native reptile species and Gillian Burke looks for Snowdonia's bats (2/12)

9.00 Forensics: The Real CSI West Midlands Police work to identify who is responsible for a fire that has burned down a factory in Birmingham. A fire investigator is deployed to open the case before vital evidence is destroyed by the blaze (3/4)

10.00 Colin from Accounts Australian comedy. Last in the series

10.30 Newsnight Headline analysis, with Victoria Derbyshire

11.15 FILM Denmark (15, 2019) A depressed Welshman decides to get arrested overseas and hopes to be sent to a relatively luxurious Danish prison. Comedy drama starring Rafe Spall. **See Film Choice**

12.40am Sign Zone: Murder in the Pacific. The bomber reveals how he planted explosives on the *Rainbow Warrior* (r) (SL) **1.40** MasterChef. The remaining chefs make dishes they would put in their own cookbook (r) (SL) **2.40-3.40** MasterChef (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. More celebrity interviews and topical debate from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David discovers a rock'n'roll legend in Grimsby, Debbie Serpell relives her childhood and Karen Dalmeny has a secret admirer (r) **3.00** Tenable. A team of workmates answer Top 10 list questions and attempt to top the tower to win a big cash prize (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the quiz in which contestants drop tokens down chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather


Coronation Street (7.30pm)

7.00 Emmerdale Claudette stirs the pot, while Jimmy and Tom make a fresh start

7.30 Coronation Street As Gemma and Chesney share their first dance, Paul resolves to savour every moment of joy

8.00 Britain's Got Talent Ant and Dec host the second live semi-final of the talent contest, welcoming back acts that impressed judges Bruno Tonioli, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon during the auditions episodes

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 On Assignment Controversy surrounding one of the world's largest construction projects in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula

11.20 Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport Storm Eunice wreaks havoc at Heathrow airport, as staff deal with a deluge of delays and angry passengers, and also try to deter debris from hitting the runway (2/6) (r)

12.10am Teleshopping **3.00** Monster Carp. Ali Hamidi visits Hungary with fellow carp fanatics Neil Spooner and Tom Dove (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Bling. Jewellery show (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch. Magazine show **2.10pm** Countdown. Cally Beaton is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. A couple search for a home in the Charente region of France (r) **4.00** The Great House Giveaway. Two wannabe property developers try to transform a dated terraced house (r) **5.00** Sarah Beeny's New Country Lives. A couple start work on their dream farmhouse kitchen-diner **6.00** The Simpsons. Marge decides to run for mayor (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Jack offers Scott some parenting advice (r)


Presenter Kevin McCloud (9pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 The Greatest Auction AJ Odudu hosts as buyers bid for the neon sign of a Soho sex shop, a piece of the wedding cake of the Prince and Princess of Wales and a 1930s Tube map (4/8)

9.00 Grand Designs: The Streets Kevin McCloud and Natasha Huq meet a couple who are building houses three doors down from each other in hopes of providing a new life for the five children they have between them

10.00 Gender Wars Focusing on polarising conversations surrounding sex and gender, featuring contributions from people at the heart of the dialogue, including Kathleen Stock and Professor Stephen Whittle. **See Viewing Guide**

11.05 999: On the Front Line In Birmingham, a young woman is found lying collapsed and unconscious in the street and needs medical help. Paramedics also attend to an apparently homeless person having difficulty walking (10/10) (r)

12.05am Porn King (r) **1.05** World's Most Luxurious Holidays (r) (SL) **2.00** Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) **2.50** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **3.45** Amazing Spaces (r) (SL) **4.40** Love It or List It: Brilliant Builds (r) **5.10** Britain's Scenic Railways (r) (SL)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points **12.15pm** Alexis Conran **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Rose and Mali turn a new page, agreeing to end the relationship (r) **2.15 FILM Danger in the House (PG, TVM, 2022)** A wealthy man hires a woman to look after his sick mother, but the caregiver tries to make herself a permanent facet of the family. Thriller starring Kathryn Kohut **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. The surprise arrival of a pair of garden clowns gives both experts food for thought **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. The Mighty Wanderers try their luck against the quiz experts (r) **6.30** Eggheads. The Baize Brains take on the quiz show (r) **6.55** 5 News Update


The Yorkshire Vet (8pm)

7.00 Jane McDonald: My Yorkshire Jane starts this final edition in Hawes, the small market town of Upper Wensleydale in the Yorkshire Dales, visiting an old sweet shop (5/5) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 The Yorkshire Vet Julian has a mysterious case on his hands when he treats two pet goats that have been attacked by an unknown animal. Elsewhere, Peter visit an old friend's farm where he meets a pig that is under the weather

9.00 The Blackouts of '74: When Britain Went Dark Archive footage and celebrity recollections reveal how, 50 years ago during an energy crisis, the government imposed a three-day working week for factories, shops and business, and UK-wide household blackouts. **See Viewing Guide**

10.30 Murder on the Doorstep: Who Killed Alistair Wilson? The killing of Alistair Wilson has baffled detectives for almost 20 years. Just after 7pm on 28 November 2004, the young Scottish banker and father was executed on his own doorstep — shot three times at point blank range in a seemingly motiveless assassination (r)

11.55 Shoplifters & Scammers: At War with the Law (r)

12.50am Entertainment News on 5 **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** History of Britain (r) **3.50** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.35** Fireman Sam (r) (SL) **5.45** Thomas: Big World! Big Adventures! (r) (SL)

Tuesday 30 | Primetime digital guide



White House Plumbers
Justin Theroux and Woody Harrelson in a new satire
Sky Atlantic, 9pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max An insight into the day's top stories
6.30 The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show Reports
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham The host takes a look through the morning newspapers
1.00pm Ian Collins Monologues, stimulating debates and dedicated time for calls
4.00 Vanessa Feltz The presenter guides viewers through the big stories of the day
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Discussion
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored The host presents his verdict on the day's global events with an hour of debate and interviews
9.00 The Talk A panel of famous faces debate the latest topics and headlines
10.00 First Edition A look at tomorrow's newspapers
11.00-12.00m't Piers Morgan Uncensored Discussion

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Top Gear (2/5)
8.00 Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton Amir embarks on his gruelling 10-week training regime in the States, and Faryal arranges a farewell dinner for him with some of his friends (3/6)
8.30 Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton Team Khan gears up for the next stage of Amir's intense training in Colorado with BoMac and Terrence Crawford, while Faryal views a £6million pad in London (4/6)
9.00 The Apprentice Australia The celebrities are tasked with writing child-friendly books and presenting them to a classroom of children, but the family focused task does not stop arguments and rivalries (9/16)
10.10 The Young Offenders (5/6)
10.45 The Young Offenders (6/6)
11.15-12.05am I Kissed a Boy (5/8)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm The Pennine Way Paul Rose reaches the Yorkshire Dales, where he climbs the limestone cliff face of Malham Cove (2/4)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain Structures from the Middle Ages (3/6)
8.00 As Time Goes By The day of the book launch arrives (7/7)
8.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? Bob throws a surprise party for Terry — but the blindfolded guest of honour begins to insult old friends (6/13)
9.00 Close to Vermeer Behind the scenes of the largest Vermeer exhibition ever, currently on view at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. **See Viewing Guide**
10.15 Expedition Volcano The team takes a helicopter to an active volcano (2/2)
11.15-12.15am Britain and the Sea British seaside leisure (4/4)

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm The Dog House A Liverpool family decide between a litter of German shepherd puppies (3/8)
7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud follows a software executive and a garden designer, who are planning to build a "floating" house on the Thames, which would be the first of its kind in the UK
9.00 24 Hours in A&E A 66-year-old is rushed to St George's struggling to breathe through her tracheostomy (3/8)
10.00 Brain Surgeons: Between Life and Death In this episode, a 30-year-old man and a 39-year-old woman must undergo surgery while remaining awake
11.05-12.05am Emergency Helicopter Medics A teenage motorcyclist suffers multiple fractures (4/10)

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm True Blood The Chancellors return to the Authority headquarters and revel in the aftermath of tasting Lilith's blood. Meanwhile, Sookie and Jason visit the site where their parents died (8/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Dontos spirits Sansa out of King's Landing, Tywin has an offer for Oberyn Martell, while Jon proposes a bold plan after the wildlings send a chilling message to Castle Black (3/10) (R)
9.00 White House Plumbers New series. In 1971, the White House hires E Howard Hunt and G Gordon Liddy to investigate the Pentagon leak. **See Viewing Guide**
10.05 Perry Mason Perry tries to negotiate with the DA (5/8)
11.10-12.15am Gangs of London Elliot makes a choice that defines his future (9/9) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

7.00pm Spector Phil Spector assembles his legal defence team as he professes his innocence, while jurors learn Lana Clarkson met the producer by chance on the night of her death (3/4) (R)
8.00 Spector Phil Spector is convicted after a second trial and in the wake of his death, and those left behind contemplate his legacy (4/4) (R)
9.00 I Am Patrick Swayze A tribute to the American actor, known for his roles in hits like *Dirty Dancing*, *Ghost* and *The Outsiders*. With contributions by Demi Moore and Rob Lowe among others (R)
10.50-12.50am FILM Bobby (PG, 2016) Documentary celebrating Bobby Moore's footballing career. Featuring contributions from family, friends and celebrity fans

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Superstore Jonah encourages Amy to have a baby shower, but things get out of hand
7.30 Superstore Kelly requests to be transferred to a different store
8.00 Bob's Burgers
8.30 Bob's Burgers
9.00 Family Guy
9.30 Family Guy
10.00 Family Guy
10.30 Family Guy
11.00 Family Guy
11.30 American Dad!
11.55-12.25am American Dad!

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.55pm Heartbeat The villagers close ranks when travellers pass through Aidensfield and the already tense atmosphere becomes even more volatile when a bank robber goes on the run
8.00 Vera The detective investigates a petrol-bomb attack
10.00 Scott & Bailey Janet moves a step closer to tracking down Veronica's killer
11.00-12.05am Scott & Bailey Rachel narrowly avoids being run over by a car and grows paranoid

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

7.00pm BattleBots Undefeated bots Bronco and Sawblaze battle to preserve their perfect records
8.00 River Monsters Jeremy Wade investigates a mystery sea monster in a lake in Malaysia
9.00 Isle of Man TT: FHO-TT Trailblazers A look at the impact of the FHO Racing team
10.00-11.00pm FILM Mad Max (18, 1979) A cop in the near future sets out to avenge his family's murder at the hands of a biker gang. Action thriller starring Mel Gibson

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Cindy's behaviour worries Zara and Grace
7.30 The Big Bang Theory
8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht A group of social media influencer guests shake Jenna's confidence
9.00 Gogglebox
10.05 Naked Attraction
11.10 Impractical Jokers The guys ask strangers for questionable quotes at the park
11.40-12.05am Impractical Jokers The guys pose as trainees at an organic food shop

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games Kelly Cates, Tyger Drew-Honey, Desiree Burch and Matt Allwright compete
7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games Quiz show
8.20 Room 101 With Cilla Black, Hugh Dennis and Mel Giedroyc
9.00 Live at the Apollo Sara Pascoe hosts, with sets by Larry Dean and Gary Delaney
10.00 QI XL Extended version
11.00 Meet the Richardsons
11.40-12.20am Would I Lie to You?

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Howard's bicycle starts acting strangely in front of Pearl
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine Billy gains a stalker, but soon discovers he has greater worries ahead
8.00 Dalziel & Pascoe A retired detective is found dead
10.00 New Tricks An investigation leaves Sasha facing a dilemma
11.20-1.35am Silent Witness Sam Ryan suspects foul play when she is called in to investigate the suicide of a headmaster's wife

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Bangers and Cash Derek picks up some 'emerging' sporting classics from the Far East (5/10)
8.00 Joanna Lumley's Japan A 2,000-mile trip across Japan (1/3)
9.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics The team restore a 1988 Golf GTI Convertible (3/6)
10.00 Bangers and Cash An Aston Martin DB6 looks set to break the Mathewsons auction record (4/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys (1/15)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.55pm Grand Tours of Scotland Paul Murton travels up the east coast in a Morris Minor (6/6)
7.30 Sabotage in Auschwitz
8.35 Inside Japan's War Insight into Imperial Japan's military motives and culture (1/4)
9.45 America and the Taliban New series. How America's 20-year investment in Afghanistan culminated in Taliban victory (1/3)
10.55 Sabotage in Auschwitz
12.00-1.15am America and the Taliban Documentary (1/3)

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm The Art of the Garden Andy Sturgeon's design for Battersea Power Station (4/6)
8.00 Andrea Bocelli: The Journey The tenor goes on a spiritual pilgrimage around Italy, (2/4)
9.00 JRR Tolkien: Designer of Worlds Documentary about the author of *The Lord of the Rings*
10.15 The World in a Painting
11.30-12.30am Art Traffickers: Treasures Stolen from the Tombs The stories behind those who have stolen masterpieces (2/4)

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Forged in Fire The contestants are given the task of choosing their own challenge
8.00 Behind History A look at some of the most notable catastrophes in history
9.00 Hannibal: A March on Rome
10.00 The Proof Is Out There An examination of several seemingly impossible things 'caught on film'
11.00 Ancient Aliens Stories of UFO sightings in Alaska
12.00-1.00am The Curse of Oak Island Documentary

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stargate SG-1 (2/2) Carter and Orlin search for a vaccine
8.00 The Flash Iris is alarmed by Barry's disappearance (11/13)
9.00 Flintoff: Lord of the Fries The duo meet Rob's cycling hero Bradley Wiggins (6/6)
10.00 The 90s: Cinema's Greatest Decade Alex Zane and celebrities look back at the era's best films
11.00 Fantasy Island Three friends come to the island to celebrate their 50th birthdays (6/10)
12.00-1.00am S.W.A.T.

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation
8.00 UFOs: Investigating the Unknown In 2015, Navy pilots report having strange encounters with UFOs. Last in the series
9.00 JFK: The Lost Assassination Tapes The shooting of President Kennedy and the aftermath, revisited using archive footage from local Houston news
10.00 Secrets of Area 51
11.00 Hitler the Junkie
12.00-1.00am Air Crash Investigation

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Kindig Customs
8.00 Gold Divers Steve continues his hunt for a job
9.00 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail
10.00 Gold Rush: White Water Dakota Fred and his son risk their lives to find a fortune in gold
11.00 Naked and Afraid XL
12.00-1.00am Alaskan Steel Men

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.30pm The Office (US)
8.00 The Conners
8.30 The Office (US)
9.00 Miracle Workers: Oregon Trail Todd goes into politics (9/10)
9.30 Miracle Workers: Oregon Trail The final showdown (10/10)
10.00 A Black Lady Sketch Show
10.35-11.35pm Sex and the City

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.30pm Friends
8.00 Friends
8.30 Friends
9.00 FILM Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story (12, 2004) Comedy starring Vince Vaughn
10.45 Reno 911!
11.45-12.15am Impractical Jokers: Filming with the Stars

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Open All Hours
7.40 Dad's Army
8.20 Dad's Army
9.00 The Cleaner Wicky finds himself continually interrupted
9.40 The Cleaner Wicky tries to help a pompous novelist
10.20 Live at the Apollo
11.20-12.20am The Office

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Inside the Ambulance
8.00 DIY SOS: The Big Build
9.00 24 Hours in A&E A 39-year-old is rushed to St George's bleeding from his femoral artery
10.00 999 Rescue Squad A skier falls over on a steep slope
10.55-12.10am Louis Theroux: Dark States: Murder in Milwaukee

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

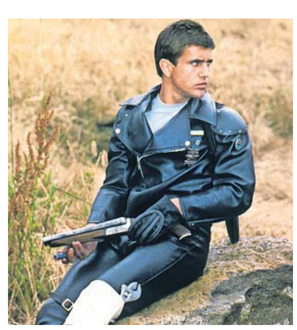
7.00pm Person of Interest (12/13)
8.00 Father Brown (3/10)
9.00 Father Brown (4/10)
10.00 Death in Paradise (1/9)
11.00 Without a Trace A woman disappears after a shooting
12.00-1.00am Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators Comedy drama (8/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

7.00pm Sky Sports News Round-up of the sports news, with live analysis and comment
8.00 Sky Sports News Round-up of the sports news, with extended interviews with the headline-makers
9.00 Sky Sports News Round-up of the sports news with live analysis
10.00 Sky Sports News Round-up of the sports news
10.30 Back Pages Tonight A look at the sports headlines
11.00-12.00m't Sky Sports News

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm PL Review A look back at the weekend's action
8.00 Soccer AM: The Best Bits Highlights from the Saturday morning football show
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox Gary sits down with Liverpool legend John Barnes (3/6)
9.00 PL Review A look back at the weekend's best action
10.00 Soccer AM: The Best Bits Highlights from the Saturday morning football show
10.30-12.30am PL Retro



Mel Gibson kicks off a franchise as an Aussie cop in a dystopian future in Mad Max (ITV4, 10pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

9.00am Vitality T20 Blast Cricket Action from Derbyshire Falcons v Lancashire Lightning
12.45pm Vitality T20 Blast Cricket Action from Birmingham Bears v Yorkshire Vikings
8.05 Vitality T20 Blast Cricket Durham v Nottinghamshire Outlaws. Action from the North Group match from Seat Unique Riverside, Chester-le-Street
11.40 Ashes Greats Adam Gilchrist's performances in 2001
11.50-12.00m't Ashes Greats

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

6.30pm Premier League Action from the top flight
8.00 Premier League Stories A look at Arsenal and Manchester City's bids for the title
9.00 WWE Monday Night Raw Wrestling action
11.30pm-12.00m't Ariel Helwani Meets The acclaimed combat sport journalist sits down with WWE star Bayley
1.00-3.15am Live WWE NXT Wrestling coverage, the next generation showcase their talents

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

7.00pm Premiership Rugby Union Saracens v Sale Sharks in the final
8.30 Badminton Weekly
8.45 BT Sport Goals Reload The greatest goals from around the world this week
9.15 Premier League Reload
9.30 I Believe in Miracles
11.15 What I Wore
12.00-3.30am Live MLB: New York Mets v Philadelphia Phillies Coverage of all the action from the League match from Citi Field (Start-time 12.10)

Tuesday 30

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Tomahawk (PG, 1951) Western starring Van Heflin and Yvonne De Carlo
12.40pm The Cockleshell Heroes (U, 1955) Second World War drama with Jose Ferrer and Trevor Howard
2.45 40 Guns to Apache Pass (PG, 1967) Western drama starring Audie Murphy
4.40 Gunfight at the OK Corral (PG, 1957) Western starring Burt Lancaster
7.05 Men in Black II (PG, 2002) Sci-fi comedy with Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones
9.00 The Favourite (15, 2018) Historical black comedy starring Olivia Colman
11.25-1.40am The Girl in the Spider's Web (15, 2018) Thriller starring Claire Foy

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Jack London (PG, 1943) Biopic of the writer starring Michael O'Shea
7.45 Sherlock Holmes
8.15 You Pay Your Money (U, 1957) Thriller starring Honor Blackman, Jane Hylton and Hugh McDermott
9.30 Interpol Calling
10.00 Bait (PG, 1954) Film noir crime drama starring Cleo Moore and Hugo Haas
11.40 The Strange Woman (PG, 1946) Period drama starring Hedy Lamarr
1.40pm Knock on Any Door (PG, 1949) Courtroom drama starring Humphrey Bogart
3.45 Sudden Fear (PG, 1952) Thriller starring Joan Crawford and Jack Palance
6.00 Colonel March of Scotland Yard
6.30 Scotland Yard
7.05 Danger UXB
8.05 The Human Jungle
9.05 Maigret
10.55 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro
11.00-12.35am Witchcraft (18, 1964) Horror starring Lon Chaney Jr and Jack Hedley

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am I Almost Married A Serial Killer (12, 2019) Thriller starring Krista Allen
10.50 GREAT! Movie News
11.00 Seduced by Lies (12, 2010) Thriller starring Josie Davis and Marc Menard
12.50pm GREAT! Movie News
1.00 Betrayed By Lies (PG, 2018) Drama starring Amy Nuttall and Daniel Lapaine
2.50 GREAT! Movie News
3.00 Reunited and It Feels So Deadly: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2020) Drama with Candace Cameron Bure
4.50 GREAT! Movie News
5.00 Forgotten Abduction (2020) Thriller starring Bree Williamson, Heather McComb and Jason Cermak



Olivia Colman in The Favourite (Film4, 9pm)

6.50 GREAT! Movie News
7.00 House of Deadly Secrets (PG, 2018) Thriller with Angie Patterson and Philip Boyd
8.50 GREAT! Movie News
9.00 Ain't Them Bodies Saints (15, 2013) Romantic crime drama with Rooney Mara. **See Film Choice**
10.55-1.10am Seraphim Falls (15, 2006) Western thriller starring Pierce Brosnan

TCM Movies
SKY 315

7.45am The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (PG, 1948) Adventure with Humphrey Bogart and Walter Huston
10.20 The Fighting Lawman (U, 1953) Western with Wayne Morris and Virginia Grey
11.50 Across the Wide Missouri (PG, 1951) Western adventure with Clark Gable and Maria Elena Marques
1.30pm Ice Station Zebra (U, 1968) Arctic adventure starring Rock Hudson
4.30 The Man from Galveston (U, 1963) Western starring Jeffrey Hunter
5.45 Hired Gun (U, 1957) Western starring Rory Calhoun and Anne Francis
7.05 Off Set
7.20 Sierra Passage (PG, 1950) Western starring Wayne Morris and Lola Albright
9.00 Hell on the Border (15, 2019) Western starring David Gyasi and Ron Perlman
11.20-1.40am Criminal (15, 2016) Thriller starring Kevin Costner and Gary Oldman

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.35pm Dead Shot (15, 2023) Thriller starring Aml Ameen
2.25 Summering (12, 2022) Drama starring Lia Barnett
4.05 Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG, 2022) Musical comedy starring Javier Bardem
6.10 The Old Way (15, 2023) Western starring Nicolas Cage and Ryan Kiera Armstrong
8.00 To Catch A Killer (15, 2023) Thriller starring Shailene Woodley, Ben Mendelsohn and Ralph Ineson
10.00-11.55pm Hallowe'en Ends (18, 2022) Horror sequel starring Jamie Lee Curtis

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Luke Jones with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Patrick Maguire **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

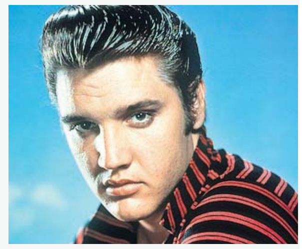
6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Jazz Show with Jamie Cullum **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. Soulful tunes **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Pick of the Pops (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast
9.00 Essential Classics
12.00 Composer of the Week: Domenico Scarlatti A look at Scarlatti's attempt to make his name in the world of opera
1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert The Carducci Quartet perform at the first of four recitals from the Hay Festival. Schubert (String Quartet No 10 in E flat, D87) and Hensel (String Quartet in E flat)
2.00 Afternoon Concert Josef Strauss (*Fireproof polka*); Holst (*The Perfect Fool*); Mozart (Rondo in A minor K.511); Rossini (*L'Italiana in Algeri* — Overture); Sigismondo d'India (*Dilectus meus*) and Britten (Violin Concerto, Op 15)
5.00 In Tune Music news
7.00 Classical Mixtape A sequence of music
7.30 Radio 3 in Concert Kirill Karabits conducts the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at Lighthouse, Poole's Centre for the Arts. Sibelius (*Pohjola's Daughter*); Grieg (Piano Concerto) and Nielsen (Symphony No 4 — *The Inextinguishable*)
10.00 Free Thinking As the Imperial War Museum opens an exhibition about the Troubles in Northern Ireland, Anne McElvoy and guests discuss what it means to explore the subject in this way
10.45 The Essay: Charles Aznavour in Five Songs *La Bohème*, one of the songs Aznavour most loved to sing
11.00 Night Tracks
12.30am Through the Night (r)

Today's pick

When Elvis Met the Beatles
Radio 4 Extra, 10am
Another chance to hear this lively reimagining of the night of August 27, 1965, when Elvis Presley, *right*, invited the Beatles, to visit him at his Los Angeles mansion. No cameras or recording equipment was allowed — and only those who were there really know what happened. All of which means that writer Jeff Young has a good deal of free rein. The cast includes Tom Hughes as John Lennon,



Kevin Mains as Elvis Presley and Shaun Mason as Paul McCartney and imagines a jam session between the musical giants as well as what songs were played on Elvis's jukebox. Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day (r)
6.00 Today
9.00 The Life Scientific
9.30 One to One
9.45 Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History (2/5)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
10.00 Woman's Hour
11.00 Fever: The Hunt for Covid's Origin New series
11.30 Sound Towns
12.01pm (LW) Shipping
12.04 Call You and Yours
1.00 The World at One
1.45 Oliver Burkeman's Inconvenient Truth
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: Undercover Mumbai Written by Ayeesha Menon. Crime drama set and recorded in India (1/3) (r)
3.00 The Kitchen Cabinet (r)
3.30 Bad Blood: The Story of Eugenics (r)
4.00 Law in Action
4.30 Great Lives Ellie Gibson picks the British politician and writer Tony Benn
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Olga Koch: OK Computer
7.00 The Archers Ian struggles with a complicated situation
7.15 Front Row Arts news
8.00 The Today Debate Mishal Husain presents the discussion
8.40 In Touch
9.00 All in the Mind
9.30 The Life Scientific (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The House of Doors By Tan Twan Eng. Lesley is hit by the realisation that her two new house guests are lovers (2/10)
11.00 Witch New series. India Rakusen finds out what it means to call be a witch today
11.30 The Spark (r)
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History (2/5) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **7.30** 5 Live Sport **10.00** Colin Murray **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Laura Woods **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Baker **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **12.00** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am The Goon Show **8.30** Flywheel, Shyster and Flywheel **9.00** Who Goes There? **9.30** No Commitments **10.00** When Elvis Met the Beatles. Drama inspired by the Fab Four's 1965 meeting with their hero. **See Choice** **11.00** The Events at Black Tor **11.30** A Charles Paris Mystery: A Reconstructed Corpse **12.00** One Two Three Four: The Beatles in Time **12.15pm** The Citadel **12.30** North by Northamptonshire **1.00** The Goon Show **1.30** Flywheel, Shyster and Flywheel **2.00** Who Goes There? **2.30** No Commitments. Comedy with Rosemary Leach **3.00** When Elvis Met the Beatles **4.00** The Events at Black Tor **4.30** A Charles Paris Mystery: A Reconstructed Corpse **5.00** One Two Three Four: The Beatles in Time **5.15** The Citadel **5.30** North by Northamptonshire **6.00** The Goon Show **6.30** Flywheel, Shyster and Flywheel **7.00** Who Goes There? **7.30** No Commitments **8.00** TED Radio Hour **8.50** Inheritance Tracks **9.00** Mastertapes **9.30** Rebus: Death Is Not the End **10.00** Olga Koch: OK Computer **10.30** Alice's Wunderland **11.00** It Is Rocket Science **11.15** Paperback Hell **11.30** Think the Unthinkable

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** Documentary **10.00** News **10.06** The Arts Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** In the Studio **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** Newsroom **1.30** Discovery **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** People Fixing the World **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** The Documentary **8.30** Tech Life **9.00** Newshour **10.06** People Fixing the World **10.30** In the Studio **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The Arts Hour **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** The Climate Question **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** Fukushima

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Gemma Cairney **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Huw Stephens **7.00** Loud and Proud with Ezra Furman & Laura Jane Grace **9.00** Big Joanie **12.00** 6 Music Artist in Residence **1.00am** Overnight Documentary

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Wednesday 31 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
The Gallows Pole
BBC2, 9pm

Shane Meadows returns to the small screen with this earthy three-part period drama. The new series is shot through with elements of folk horror like the Benjamin Myers novel it is based on and which won the Walter Scott prize for historical fiction in 2018. In the early 1760s, the thriving Calder Valley in West Yorkshire produced some of the finest cottage-spun textiles in the world. But as the decade wore on, its fortunes began to sharply decline as the weavers' cottages were rendered obsolete by massive factories, laying waste to the feudal system that had existed for centuries. Enter the enigmatic "King" David Hartley. We meet Hartley (Michael Socha, *right*), staggering wounded across the unspoilt English landscape that would soon be changed irrevocably, accompanied by his nightmarish visions of the "Stag Men". He is returning to the Calder Valley seven years after he left after the death of his father. The small population, including his family, are starving and struggling to survive. After recovering from a stab wound that almost claims his life, Hartley organises the local weavers and land-workers into a gang who became known as the "Cragg Vale Coiners", running one of the biggest counterfeit operations in British history and capsizing the economy in the process. As well as his regular collaborators Socha and Thomas Turgoose (*This Is England*), Meadows has assembled a cast of first-time actors to play minor roles. The cast combined with peppery dialogue and some scenes that feel loose and improvised adds a raw naturalism to this distinctive drama.
Joe Clay



George Michael: A Different Story
Paramount+

In this 2004 documentary (first aired on BBC1) George Michael talked candidly about his life and career, including coming to terms with his sexuality, the death of his mother and the potentially career-ending toilet incident. It also delivered the first interview with Andrew Ridgeley, his former Wham! bandmate, since the group split, with the duo appearing on-screen together. In the documentary Michael prematurely announced the end of his pop career. "I just thought it was very important to explain myself before I disappear," he says. **JC**

The Great British Sewing Bee
BBC1, 9pm

An opening skit involving Sara Pascoe dressed as a flight attendant is the cue that this is travel week, with the 11 remaining amateur needleworkers ready for another three tricky challenges set by the judges Esme Young and Patrick Grant. The pattern challenge is a first for the Sewing Bee, with the contestants tasked with making a rucksack with two adjustable straps and a front pocket with a zip. And this being Blighty, the transformation task is to make "emergency rainwear" out of a windbreak. **JC**

A Paedophile in My Family
Channel 4, 9pm

"To the outside world we were no different to any other family," says Emily at the start of this distressing documentary. But for the first 18 years of her life she was sexually abused by her dad. Against the odds, as an adult Emily has created a loving home for her son and has a successful career. Determined to help other survivors of abuse, she has decided to make this film. The process is harrowing, as she talks to family, friends, teachers and her mum to try to understand how her abuse remained hidden for so long. **JC**

The Long Roads
BBC4, 9pm

The latest offering from the Screen Two archive is John McGrath's poignant 1993 drama. Kitty McVurrich (Edith MacArthur) and her husband, Peter (Robert Urquhart), leave their farm on the Isle of Skye for a final journey around Britain to visit their five children after Kitty is diagnosed with terminal cancer. Their offspring are geographically and socially miles apart, but the road trip is successful in that it rekindles the couple's love for one another. Critics at the time felt that it was a rather obvious way to highlight differences in British society, but few could resist the love story at its core. **JC**

Catch up

Anna Nicole Smith: You Don't Know Me
Netflix



In the 1990s Anna Nicole Smith's marriage to the elderly oil billionaire J Howard Marshall 14 months before his death made her an emblem of busty blonde gold-diggers the world over. Ursula Macfarlane's brilliantly executed and thoughtful two-hour film wants to reconsider this story entirely. A small-town Texas girl from a rackety home, Smith always yearned for protection from the world, but the world didn't usually deliver. As we follow her heady days as stripper, paparazzo darling and Playmate model, before drug addiction and an unhappy legal battle over Marshall's estate brought her down, her charisma always shines through. There is no doubt how vivacious and kind she was, as well as beautiful — males literally followed her shopping when she was a teenager and they didn't stop until her death, aged 39. **Ben Dowell**

Regional programmes

● **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** Blood, Sweat and Cheer (r) **11.25** You Don't Look... ADHD. Laura designs a look for Kim to help visualise what living with ADHD feels like for her. Last in the series **11.35** I Kissed a Boy. The boys face the most dramatic Kiss Off yet and tensions reach boiling point **12.20-1.10am** I Kissed a Boy. The dinner party concludes with heated words and bruised relationships
● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** Nolan Live **11.40** I Kissed a Boy **12.30am** I Kissed a Boy **1.20** Question of Sport (r) **1.50-6.00am** BBC News
● **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 11.15pm** Spotlight (r) **11.45** Unspun World with John Simpson. The week's global news stories **12.15am** Miriam Margolyes: Almost Australian (r) **1.15-1.25am** Gardening Together with Diarmuid Gavin. A garden in Howth, Co Dublin (r)
● **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 2.15pm** Politics Scotland **3.00-3.45** Money for Nothing (r) **12.15am** The Edit (r) **12.30** Debate Night (r) **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.35-6.00am** BBC News
● **STV As ITV1 except: 10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05** Our House. Thriller, starring Tuppence Middleton and Martin Compston (r) **12.00-3.00** Teleshopping **5.20-6.00am** Night Vision
● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** Scotland's Biggest Families (r) **8.00** Granite Harbour (r) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City. Jessie returns to Shieldinch hoping to make amends **10.30** Debate Night. Topical debate **11.30** Stevens & McCarthy (r) **11.45pm-Midnight** Stevens & McCarthy (r)
● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw (r) **10.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Heledd Cynwal and Trystan Ellis Morris present coverage of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru National Eisteddfod in Carmarthenshire **12.00** News **12.05pm** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Featuring the latest results from Lwyfan y Cyfrwy with Mari Lovgreen **1.55** News **2.00** Live Urdd: Defod y Cadeirio. Coverage of the main ceremony of the day from the grounds of the National Urdd Eisteddfod Carmarthenshire — the Drama Medal **2.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Further coverage **6.00** Copsan. Catrin is disappointed by Llyr, a boy she goes to meet **6.15** Cynefin (r) **6.30** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo (r) **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Highlights **9.25** News **9.30** Eirys: Mam yr Urdd (r) **10.30** Pa Fath o Bobl un Mewn Miliwn (r) **11.00** Ar y Dibyn. Two different challenges await the adventurers (r) **11.30-1.00** Eisteddfod yr Urdd (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

Films of the day

Eighth Grade (15, 2018)
BBC3, 10pm

Teenage girl has moderately bad time. That's *Eighth Grade* in a nutshell. And it's riveting. The film was written and directed by Bo Burnham, the 32-year-old American YouTube star turned keyboard-tinkling stand-up comedian. As a digital native Burnham understands how Kayla's life is refracted through her smartphone. Kayla, played with accomplishment by Elsie Fisher, *below*, is approaching the end of eighth grade (the school year in which children turn 14), a hormonal minefield anywhere, but even more fraught in the US for being the last year before high school. Kayla suffers from anxiety, body-image issues and acne, so it's a symphony of self-consciousness from Fisher. Burnham's feature debut is sweet, sad and beautifully observed. (94min) **Ed Potton**



The Death of Stalin (15, 2017)
BBC2, 11.45pm

The Death of Stalin transforms the murky and tricky historical period surrounding the death of Joseph Stalin in March 1953 into a punchy, raucous, savagely smart comedy. The film is directed by the satirist Armando Iannucci, who reduces all intrigue and machinations into one simple meta-plot: Stalin (Adrian McLoughlin) dies and everyone around him goes mental. The characters are a motley and inherently comedic crew and include the interim Soviet premier Georgy Malenkov (Jeffrey Tambor), the general secretary and future premier Nikita Khrushchev (Steve Buscemi), the foreign affairs minister Vyacheslav Molotov (Michael Palin) and the brilliantly sinister security chief Lavrentiy Beria (Simon Russell Beale). (102min) **Kevin Maher**

Also available online and on tablet
Digital subscribers can now use our interactive seven-day guide with comprehensive listings of all TV channels
thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Wednesday 31

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Rip Off Britain **10.45** Fraud Squad (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News **1.45** Doctors. Rob finally addresses the elephant in the room **2.15** Money for Nothing. Items include a dressing table, four glass lampshades and a dead shrub **3.00** Escape to the Country. Sonali Shah helps a London couple search for their dream countryside home in Buckinghamshire (r) **3.45** Garden Rescue. A Hereford couple need help making an eco-friendly garden **4.30** Clean It, Fix It. The team are in London to help a single mum of three reclaim her bedroom **5.15** Pointless. Quiz show **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather


Sewing Bee's travel week (9pm)

7.00 **The One Show** With Roman Kemp and Angellica Bell

7.30 **EastEnders** Jay struggles to say goodbye to his wife, and Linda hosts a lock-in at The Vic to give some moral support

8.00 **MasterChef** The semi-finalists meet celebrated chef Clare Smyth who challenges them to cook and serve one of her signature dishes to a group of professional chefs including Tom Kitchin and Jonny Lake

9.00 **The Great British Sewing Bee** The sewers are tasked with making garments for a travel wardrobe, including a good sturdy rucksack and some made-to-measure swimwear. **See Viewing Guide** (2/10)

10.00 **BBC News at Ten**

10.30 **BBC Regional News**

10.40 **I Kissed a Boy** The boys face the most dramatic Kiss Off yet and tensions reach boiling point when a rift forms in the group — leading to a very dramatic dinner party (5/8) (r)

11.25 **I Kissed a Boy** The love game gets back on track when Dannii introduces two new boys, just in time for the Kiss Off (6/8) (r)

12.15am Question of Sport. With Brentford defender Ethan Pinnock, hockey champion Hollie Pearne-Webb, world indoor 60m title-winner Richard Kilty and European gold medallist diver Tonia Couch (r) **12.45** Weather for the Week Ahead **12.50** BBC News

BBC2

6.00am Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) **6.30** Garden Rescue (r) **7.15** Clean It, Fix It (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Inside the Factory (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **1.00pm** Impossible. Quiz show, hosted by Rick Edwards (r) **1.45** Eggheads. Quiz show hosted by Jeremy Vine (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. The chef explores the west coast of Scotland (r) **2.45** A Countryside Summer. Jules Hudson goes "champing" — camping in a church (r) **3.15** What Britain Buys and Sells in a Day (r) **4.15** Back in Time for the Corner Shop (r) **5.15** Flog It! (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Edith Bowman, Fern Brady, Will Kirk and Martin Lewis take part (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo explores the seaside resort of Scarborough in Yorkshire


In search of the adder (8pm)

7.00 **Digging for Britain: The Greatest Discoveries** Sites of Iron Age Britain (2/4) (r)

7.30 **Villages by the Sea** Ben Robinson uncovers evidence of the German occupation of the Jersey village of Gorey (r)

8.00 **Springwatch** Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan have overnight news of the key characters and Gillian Burke searches Snowdonia for the UK's only venomous snake, the adder (3/12)

9.00 **The Gallows Pole** New series. Shane Meadows drama inspired by the rise of David Hartley and the Cragg Vale Coiners, a gang of counterfeiters in 18th-century Yorkshire. With Michael Socha. **See Viewing Guide** (1/3)

10.05 **Man Like Mobeen** It is the night of Aks's prom, but Mobeen must decide if she can go (1/4) (r)

10.30 **Newsnight** Analysis of the day's events, with Victoria Derbyshire

11.15 **Unspun World with John Simpson** The week's major global news stories

11.45 FILM **The Death of Stalin (15, 2017)** Political satire following the Soviet dictator's last days. Andrea Riseborough and Jason Isaacs star. **See Film Choice**

1.25am Sign Zone: Rip Off Britain. Consumer affairs (r) (SL) **2.10** Gordon Ramsay's Future Food Stars (r) (SL) **3.10-3.40** MasterChef (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Another helping of topical studio discussion from a female perspective, featuring celebrity interviews **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David and his dealers visit Telford and set up shop in the International Centre. Mark Stevens and Alison Chapman strike gold, and a furry ferret comes along to sweeten a deal (r) **3.00** Tenable. Quiz show hosted by Sally Lindsay. A team of bingo colleagues get their chance to win a bumper cash prize by answering Top 10 list questions (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz **5.00** The Chase. Quiz **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather


Emmerdale's Chloe (7pm)

7.00 **Emmerdale** Mack and Chloe's friendship grows, and Gabby is stressed about the wedding

7.30 **Coronation Street** As Justin's trial commences, Ryan gets cold feet about going to court

8.00 **Britain's Got Talent** Ant and Dec host the third live semi-final of the talent contest, welcoming back acts that impressed the judges during the auditions episodes

10.00 **ITV News at Ten**; followed by Weather

10.30 **Regional News**; followed by Regional Weather

10.45 **Our House** Fi Lawson arrives home to find strangers moving in, and is unable to contact her estranged husband or children. Thriller, starring Tuppence Middleton (1/4) (r)

11.40 **British Touring Car Championship Highlights** Steve Rider presents action from the third meeting of the season at Snetterton (r)

12.55am Teleshopping **3.00** A.I: What You Need to Know: Tonight (r) (SL) **3.25** Ithaka: The Fight to Free Assange (r) (SL) **5.20** Unwind with ITV

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch. Magazine **2.10pm** Countdown. Cally Beaton is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. A couple seek the perfect holiday home on Tenerife (r) **4.00** The Great House Giveaway. A plumber and a joiner get together to fix a property in West Yorkshire (r) **5.00** Sarah Beeny's New Country Lives. Gary and Annette plan to split their vicarage in two **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer becomes a member of the paparazzi (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Cindy's behaviour starts to worry Zara and Grace (r)


Kirstie Allsopp & Phil Spencer (8pm)

7.00 **Channel 4 News**

8.00 **Location, Location, Location** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer reunite with previous house-hunters to see where life has taken them since they found their perfect properties

9.00 **A Paedophile in My Family: Surviving Dad** Documentary following businesswoman Emily, who carries the weight of a childhood of repeated sexual abuse by her father. **See Viewing Guide**

10.00 **Gogglebox** The armchair critics share their opinions on shows including *SAS: Who Dares Wins*, *Bridgerton*, *Freeze the Fear with Wim Hof*, *The 1% Club* and *Get Organized with the Home Edit* (r)

11.05 **Gogglebox** The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week on television, with cameras capturing their instant reactions (r) (SL)

12.05am Taskmaster (r) (SL) **1.05** The Lateish Show (r) **2.00** FILM **Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse (15, 2015)** **3.35** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **4.30** Love It or List It (r) **5.00** Jamie's One-Pan Wonders (r) **5.10** Britain's Scenic Railways (r) (SL)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. Stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Tane finds Mackenzie in a bad way, sitting amidst the shreds of Gabe's torn up letter (r) **2.15** FILM **Stolen by Their Father (PG, TVM, 2022)** A woman fights for her daughters when her ex kidnaps them. Thriller starring Sarah Drew and Patrice Goodman **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. The presenter and expert Paul Hayes go antique hunting against the clock **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. The Seven Hills Students try their luck against the Eggheads (r) **6.30** Eggheads. The Pedigree Chums try their luck against the quizzers (r) **6.55** 5 News Update


Stolen by Their Father (2.15pm)

7.00 **Costco: Is It Really Worth It?** A look at the workings of the membership-only retailer, examining if its own-brand products are really premium ones in disguise (r)

7.55 **5 News Update**

8.00 **Ambulance: Code Red** A car wash employee is stabbed during an argument, a builder falls 12 feet onto concrete from the roof of a farm building, and a six-year-old is hit by a car while leaving school (r); followed by 5 News Update

9.00 **999: Critical Condition** A 23-year-old man is rushed into hospital with an excruciating pain in his lungs and coughing up blood, and the team suspect it may be a pulmonary embolism

10.00 **Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts** Dr Sue Mason and Sister Benita Wainwright prepare resus for a 56-year-old patient who has been found unconscious at home (r)

11.05 **A&E After Dark** Dr Chris comes across a motorcycle crashed into some railings on the way home from work, and returns to the hospital with the rider, who is revealed to have internal bleeding (5/10) (r)

12.05am 999: Criminals Caught on Camera (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Tony Robinson's History of Britain (r) **3.50** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.35** Fireman Sam (r) (SL) **5.45** Thomas (r) (SL)

Wednesday 31 | Primetime digital guide



Discovering: Rita Hayworth
A profile of the American actress, a star of the 1940s
Sky Arts, 9pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max
6.30 The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show Reports
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham The host takes a look through the morning newspapers
1.00pm Ian Collins Hard-hitting monologues and debates
4.00 Vanessa Feltz The host guides viewers through the big stories of the day
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Live The host takes on the issues that really matter
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored The host presents his verdict on the day's global events and headlines
9.00 The Talk A panel of opinionated famous faces debate the hot topics and latest news headlines everybody's talking about
10.00 First Edition
11.00-12.00m't Piers Morgan Uncensored

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Top Gear (3/5)
8.00 Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star The MUAs compete in teams as they are tasked to work for Adidas at Metaverse Fashion Week (5/8)
9.00 Rookie Nurses Leah is faced with her biggest challenge yet when one of her patients confesses that he wants to die, and Mikey treats a patient who has been run over by his wife (5/5)
9.30 Unreal: with Olivia Neill The social media star throws herself into virtual reality to see if she can find love in a digital world
10.00 FILM Eighth Grade (15, 2018) An introvert faces the last week of the academic year before starting high school. Comedy starring Elsie Fisher. **See Film Choice**
11.30-12.30am Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star (5/8)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm The Pennine Way Paul Rose goes white-water rafting down the Tees (3/4)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain Scottish baronial style (4/6)
8.00 Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise Exploring the wildlife and culture of the South East Asian nation (1/3)
9.00 Secrets of Size: Atoms to Supergalaxies Jim Al-Khalili explores the largest known cosmic structures (2/2)
10.00 The Long Roads One-off drama from 1993 by John McGrath. An elderly woman learns she has cancer, so she and her husband set out to visit their children. Stars Edith MacArthur and Robert Urquhart. **See Viewing Guide**
11.30-12.30am Tails You Win: The Science of Chance Exploring luck and chance

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm The Dog House A nervous collie needs another dog to keep her company (4/8)
7.55 Grand Designs A boat enthusiast invites Kevin McCloud to follow progress on his ship-themed home, which was designed to stand on stilts over a marsh by his architect nephew
9.00 Hitler: The Lost Tapes Examining how Hitler and his party used the latest propaganda techniques to mould Germany in their own image after he was elected as chancellor in 1933 (2/4)
10.00 Holidays from Hell: Caught on Camera Cameras reveal what can go wrong when a dream holiday turns into a nightmare
11.05-12.05am 24 Hours in A&E A 35-year-old is rushed to St George's struggling to breathe, while a three-year-old has a high temperature

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm True Blood The Authority tries to boost public morale following a spate of vampire-on-human attacks, and Jason discovers a scroll that may hold the answer to his parents' deaths. Ryan Kwanten stars (10/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Jaime finally visits Tyrion in jail after some persuasion from Bronn, and also has a mission for Brienne. Jon asks for volunteers to go to Craster's Keep with him. With Jerome Flynn (4/10) (R)
9.00 Perry Mason Rafael and Mateo recount the real-life consequences of the McCutcheons' Los Angeles expansion (5/8) (R)
10.05 White House Plumbers Watergate drama, starring Woody Harrelson and Justin Theroux (1/5) (R)
11.10-12.50am Succession Jeremy Strong stars (10/10) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

7.00pm Ghislaine Maxwell: Epstein's Shadow Docuseries investigating the complicated and mysterious life of the former socialite and her relationship with sex offender Jeffrey Epstein (1/3) (R)
8.00 The Essex Murders Documentary about the killing of three notorious criminals known as the Essex Boys, who were found shot to death in December 1995 (1/3) (R)
9.00 David Fuller: Monster in the Morgue Documentary about the murderer and necrophile (1/2) (R)
10.00-12.30am FILM Love to Love You, Donna Summer (12, 2023) Profile of the singer, following her career from the avant-garde music scene in Germany, to the glitter and bright lights of dance clubs in New York

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Superstore Amy and Mateo play dirty to win the store's costume contest
7.30 Superstore Amy and Dina both prepare to give birth
8.00 Bob's Burgers
8.30 Bob's Burgers
9.00 Family Guy
9.30 Family Guy
10.00 Family Guy
10.30 Family Guy
11.00 Family Guy
11.30 American Dad!
11.55-12.25am American Dad!

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.55pm Heartbeat Aidensfield gets its own Robin Hood
8.00 Vera The murder of a popular social worker and an infamous past case involving the death of a child appears to be linked
10.00 Scott & Bailey (1/2) The badly burned body of a disabled man turns up in remote woodland and a few days later another corpse is discovered
11.00-12.05am Scott & Bailey (2/2) The detectives face a wall of silence in their investigation

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.55pm BattleBots Five American robots take on five contenders from other countries
7.55 River Monsters (1/2) Jeremy Wade takes on the biggest investigation of his career – to unravel what happened to the passengers of the RMS Laconia
9.00 Isle of Man TT: Tourist Trophy Behind-the-scenes documentary looking at the world of the top TT riders
11.00-12.10am All Elite Wrestling: Rampage Hard-hitting action

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Ethan and Sienna put their plan into motion
7.30 The Big Bang Theory Sheldon bans Penny from the apartment
8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht Jenna's jealousy mounts
9.00 Gogglebox Programmes reviewed include The Crown, and You Won't Believe This
10.00 Naked Attraction
11.05 Impractical Jokers The guys work at an ice-cream parlour
11.35-12.05am Impractical Jokers Hidden camera show

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games Kelly Cates, Tyger Drew-Honey, Desiree Burch and Matt Allwright compete
7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games Quiz Show
8.20 Room 101 With Alex Jones, Clive Anderson and Jack Whitehall.
9.00 Live at the Apollo With Luisa Omielan and David O'Doherty
10.00 Mock the Week
10.40 Mock the Week
11.20 QI Comedy panel game
12.00-12.40am Mock the Week

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Clegg keeps a secret for Howard
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine Wesley and Barry embark on another crazy scheme
8.00 Kingdom A trawlerman seeks help with his insurance claim
9.00 The Coroner Lighthaven is stunned when a teenage girl appears to return from the dead
10.00 New Tricks
11.20-2.00am Silent Witness A severed arm is discovered following a traffic collision

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Bangers and Cash A couple of very different Ford Capris go head-to-head at the auction
8.00 Secrets of the London Underground Exploring forgotten stations on the District Line, Whitechapel (5/6)
9.00 Secrets of the London Underground Exploring Clapham South deep level shelter (6/6)
10.00 Bangers and Cash (6/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys (3/15)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.50pm Grand Tours of Scotland How Scottish tourism became more female-friendly (2/6)
7.30 The Good Nazi Revealing the story of Major Karl Plagge
8.35 Inside Japan's War How Japan secured victory in Malaya and the fall of Singapore (2/4)
9.45 America and the Taliban An investigation of America's missteps in the conflict in Afghanistan (2/3)
10.55 The Good Nazi
12.00-1.15am America and the Taliban Documentary (2/3)

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Discovering: Angela Bassett A profile of the actress
8.00 Portrait Artist of the Year 2018 The contestants paint celebrity sitters Ross Kemp, Vicky McClure and Freddie Fox (3/11)
9.00 Discovering: Rita Hayworth A profile of the American actress who was one of the leading Hollywood stars of the 1940s (7/13)
10.00 Katharine Hepburn: Call Me Kate Documentary capturing the actress's spirit and determination
12.00-2.30am Spielberg

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Forged in Fire
8.00 Swamp People: Serpent Invasion Legendary hunter Bruce Mitchell joins the fight alongside Zak and Aaron
9.00 The Curse of Oak Island Links are revealed between the Knights Templar and the Oak Island mystery
10.00 Deadman's Curse Clues revealed in Katzie First Nation history lead the team north (4/8)
11.00 Evil Encounters (2/12)
12.00-1.00am A Cut Above

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stargate SG-1 A black hole causes the merging of alternative realities and leads to confusion at Stargate Command
8.00 S.W.A.T. Kidnappers hold a prison guard's family hostage
9.00 Strike Back: Legacy The daughter of a British ambassador is kidnapped (1/10)
10.00 Poker Face Crime drama starring Natasha Lyonne (1/10)
11.20-12.35am Poker Face Charlie is forced to make a pitstop in New Mexico (2/10)

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation
8.00 Exomars: Europe's Impossible Mission Was the dream of finding life on Mars doomed from the start?
9.00 Ultimate Space Telescope The story of the world's most powerful telescope
10.00 Hubble's Amazing Journey The most amazing images captured by the space telescope
11.00 Nazi Trophy Mystery
12.00-1.00am Air Crash Investigation Documentary

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Bitchin' Rides
8.00 Gold Divers Shawn has showdown talks with his dad about the future of the inland mine
9.00 Deadliest Catch The work of Alaskan crab fishermen
10.00 Arctic Ice Railroad
11.00 Naked and Afraid XL
12.00-1.00am Alaskan Steel Men

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.30pm The Office (US)
8.00 The Conners
8.30 The Office (US)
9.00 And Just Like That (7/10)
9.45 Sex and the City (5/12)
10.15 Sex and the City (6/12)
10.45 A Black Lady Sketch Show
11.20 Silicon Valley (6/10)
12.00-12.40am Silicon Valley (7/10)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends
7.30 Friends
8.00 Friends
8.30 Friends
9.00 Michael McIntyre's Big Show
10.00 Kevin Bridges: The Brand New Tour Stand-up comedy
11.00 Reno 911! Double bill
12.00-12.30am Digman!

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Are You Being Served? Pilot episode of the vintage department store comedy
7.40 Dad's Army
8.20 Dad's Army
9.00 The Cleaner
9.40 The Cleaner
10.20 Live at the Apollo
11.20-12.30am The Office

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Inside the Ambulance
8.00 DIY SOS: The Big Build
9.00 Wedding Valley Documentary series about the thriving wedding industry of Lancashire's Ribble Valley
10.00 The Undateables
11.00-12.15am Louis Theroux: Gambling in Las Vegas

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Person of Interest (13/13)
8.00 Father Brown (4/10)
9.00 CSI: Vegas A reporter is found dead at a factory
10.00 Death in Paradise
11.00 Without a Trace
12.00-1.00am Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators Comedy drama (9/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

10.00am-1.00pm Live State of Origin Rugby League: Queensland Maroons v New South Wales Blues (Kick-off **11.05**). Coverage of game one of the three-match series, which takes place at Adelaide Oval
6.30pm Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Northamptonshire Steelbacks v Birmingham Bears From The County Ground in Northampton
10.00 Sky Sports News
10.30 Back Pages Tonight
11.00-12.00m't Sky Sports News

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm Premier League Stories
8.00 Soccer AM: The Best Bits Highlights from the Saturday morning football show
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox The presenter talks to Robbie Keane about matches they faced each other in
9.00 Premier League Stories Follow the journey of this season's title contenders
10.00 Soccer AM: The Best Bits Highlights from the football show
10.30-12.30am PL Retro



John Inman in the pilot episode of the sitcom Are You Being Served? (GOLD, 7pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

6.25pm Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Northamptonshire Steelbacks v Birmingham Bears Live coverage of the North Group match from The County Ground in Northampton. The Steelbacks missed out on the quarter-finals last year after finishing seventh of nine teams, but just one point off the top four
10.00 Into The Light
11.00-12.00m't Captain's Log A look back Michael Vaughan's time as England captain

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

7.15pm Live Uefa Europa League: Sevilla v AS Roma (Kick-off **8.00**). Coverage of the final, which comes from Puskas Arena in Budapest
10.30 The Football's On A humorous look at the week's football stories with Ian Stone and guests
11.30 Serie A: Full Impact
12.00-3.30am Live MLB: New York Mets v Philadelphia Phillies (Start-time **12.10**). Coverage of the National League match being staged at Citi Field

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

5.30pm WWE Raw Highlights
6.30 MLB Plays of the Week A look at the most exciting plays from the past week's matches
7.00 Live MLB: Chicago Cubs v Tampa Bay Rays (Start-time **7.20**). Coverage of the inter-league match being staged at Wrigley Field
10.30 World Poker Tour Series Action from the latest round of the season
11.30-12.30am World Poker Tour Series Action from the latest round of the season

Wednesday 31

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am A Lawless Street (U, 1955) Western with Randolph Scott and Angela Lansbury **12.40pm We're No Angels (PG, 1955)** Comedy starring Humphrey Bogart, Aldo Ray and Peter Ustinov **2.50 The Rare Breed (U, 1966)** Comedy starring Maureen O'Hara and James Stewart **4.45 The Running Man (PG, 1963)** Drama with Laurence Harvey and Alan Bates **6.55 Men in Black 3 (PG, 2012)** Sci-fi comedy sequel with Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones **9.00 Bloodshot (12, 2020)** Sci-fi thriller starring Vin Diesel and Guy Pearce **11.10-1.15am Daredevil (15, 2003)** Adventure starring Ben Affleck and Colin Farrell

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am The Detectives 7.00 Hollow Triumph (PG, 1948) Thriller starring Paul Henreid and Joan Bennett **8.35 Stormy Crossing (PG, 1958)** Mystery starring John Ireland and Paul Seymour **10.00 The Onedin Line 11.00 It Happened Tomorrow (PG, 1944)** Fantasy starring Dick Powell and Linda Darnell **12.45pm Burnt Evidence (PG, 1954)** Thriller starring Duncan Lamont and Jane Hylton **2.00 Upstairs, Downstairs 3.00 Fanny (U, 1961)** Drama starring Leslie Caron **5.45 Look at Life 6.00 Piccadilly Incident (U, 1946)** Melodrama with Anna Neagle and Michael Wilding **8.00 Gideon's Way 9.00 Bright Hair (PG, 1997)** Drama starring Emilia Fox **11.15-1.10am A Private Function (15, 1984)** Comedy starring Michael Palin

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am A Killer in My Home (12, 2020) Thriller with Bree Williamson, Krista Bridges and Hannah Vandenbygaart **10.50 GREAT! Movie News 11.00 Virtual Lies (PG, 2012)** Thriller starring Christina Cox **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News 1.00 A Night to Regret (12, 2018)** Drama starring Mollee Gray and Marguerite Moreau **2.50 GREAT! Movie News 3.00 How to Con a Con: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2020)** Thriller starring Candace Cameron Bure **4.50 GREAT! Movie News 5.00 The Rundown (12, 2003)** Action comedy with Dwayne Johnson, Seann William Scott and Christopher Walken **7.05 GREAT! Movie News 7.15 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (12, 1994)** Comedy starring Jim Carrey **8.50 GREAT! Movie News**



Julianne Moore stars (GREAT! Movies, 9pm)

9.00 The Forgotten (12, 2004) Psychological thriller starring Julianne Moore **10.50-1.05am The Road (15, 2009)** Post-apocalyptic drama with Viggo Mortensen and Kodi Smit-McPhee

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.00am Hollywood's Best Film Directors 6.35 Across the Wide Missouri (PG, 1951) Western adventure with Clark Gable and Maria Elena Marques **8.15 Will Penny (12, 1967)** Western starring Charlton Heston and Joan Hackett **10.30 The Man from Galveston (U, 1963)** Western starring Jeffrey Hunter **11.45 The Young Guns (PG, 1956)** Western starring Russ Tamblyn and Perry Lopez **1.30pm Torpedo Run (U, 1958)** Second World War adventure starring Glenn Ford and Ernest Borgnine **3.25 Riding Shotgun (U, 1954)** Western starring Randolph Scott and Wayne Morris **5.00 Operation: Daybreak (15, 1975)** Second World War drama starring Timothy Bottoms and Martin Shaw **7.30 Apache War Smoke (U, 1952)** Western starring Gilbert Roland and Glenda Farrell **9.00 Hard to Kill (18, 1990)** Revenge thriller with Steven Seagal and Kelly LeBrock **11.00-12.55am Hallowe'en (18, 1978)** Horror with Jamie Lee Curtis and Donald Pleasence

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.35pm Blueback (PG, 2022) Drama starring Mia Wasikowska and Eric Bana **2.25 Alone Together (15, 2022)** Drama starring Katie Holmes and Jim Sturgess **4.20 Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG, 2022)** Musical comedy starring Javier Bardem **6.20 Summering (12, 2022)** Drama starring Lia Barnett **8.00 To Catch A Killer (15, 2023)** Thriller with Shailene Woodleyand Ralph Ineson **10.00-11.55pm Hallowe'en Ends (18, 2022)** Horror sequel starring Jamie Lee Curtis

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Luke Jones with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Patrick Maguire **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Folk Show with Mark Radcliffe **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast 9.00 Essential Classics 12.00 Composer of the Week: Domenico Scarlatti Kate Molleson looks at how Scarlatti made a new start in Portugal **1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Soprano Soraya Mafi and pianist Ian Tindale perform at the Hay Festival. Schumann (*Lied der Suleika*, Op 25 No 9 — *Myrten*); Hensel (*Suleika II*, H-U 210); Kashani (*The Heart Snatcher*); Saint-Saëns (*Tournoiement*) and Holmès (*Chanson persane*) **2.00 Afternoon Concert** Gesualdo (*T'amo mia vita*); Beethoven (Septet Op 20 in E flat, 1st movement); Prokofiev (Piano Concerto No 2 in G minor) and Nenna (*Mercè grid*) **4.00 Choral Evensong** From Keble College, Oxford **5.00 In Tune** Music news **7.00 Classical Mixtape** A mix of jazz, folk and music from around the world **7.30 Radio 3 in Concert** Recorded at the Royal Festival Hall, London's Southbank Centre, on May 21. Prokofiev (*Lieutenant Kijé Suite*; Violin Concerto No 1 in D, Op 19) and Stravinsky (*Petrushka*) **10.00 Free Thinking** Rana Mitter and his guests look at recent European history and what it means when someone is forced to leave their country. **10.45 The Essay: Charles Aznavour in Five Songs** Paul Morley explores Aznavour's *Après l'amour* **11.00 Night Tracks 12.30am Through the Night**

Today's pick

History's Secret Heroes
Radio 4, 11.30am

Narrated by Helena Bonham Carter, this new series tells the stories of some of the most laudable yet relatively unsung heroes from the Second World War. The action begins with the story of Virginia Hall, *right*, the American spy who defied disability (she had a prosthetic leg). Hall worked for the British Special Operations Executive and created an underground espionage and resistance



network in southern France. The episode focuses on her work co-ordinating the daring 1942 prison break of 12 agents from Mauzac prison near Bergerac with a clever ruse.
Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today 5.58 Tweet of the Day (r) **6.00 Today 9.00 More or Less 9.30 Please Protect Abraham** Protecting witnesses (10/10) (r) **9.45 Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History** (3/5) **9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 What are the Railways For?** Daniel Brittain asks what Britain's railways are for (r) **11.30 History's Secret Heroes** New series. Stories from the Second World War. **See Choice 12.01pm (LW) Shipping 12.04 You and Yours 1.00 The World at One 1.45 Oliver Burkeman's Inconvenient Truth 2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 Drama: Undercover Mumbai** Crime drama (2/3) **3.00 Money Box Live 3.30 All in the Mind** (r) **4.00 Thinking Allowed 4.30 The Media Show 5.00 PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Room 101 with Paul Merton** With Desiree Burch **7.00 The Archers** Brian has a surprise encounter **7.15 Front Row** Arts news **8.00 The Moral Maze 9.00 Bad Blood: The Story of Eugenics** (r) **9.30 The Media Show** (r) **10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The House of Doors** By Tan Twan Eng. Lesley tells Willie a story from her past as she starts to feel it slipping away (3/10) **11.00 Twayna Mayne: Black Woman** (r) **11.15 The John Moloney Show** Consumer law (r) **11.30 The Spark** (r) **12.00 News and Weather 12.30am Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History** (3/5) (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **10.00** Colin Murray. Late night chat **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Laura Woods **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am Hancock's Half Hour **8.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **9.00** Nature Table **9.30** Robin and Wendy's Wet Weekends **10.00** With a Little Help from My Friends **11.00** The Events at Black Tor **11.30** A Charles Paris Mystery: A Reconstructed Corpse **12.00** One Two Three Four: The Beatles in Time **12.15pm** The Citadel **12.30** A Trespasser's Guide to the Classics **1.00** Hancock's Half Hour **1.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **2.00** Nature Table **2.30** Robin and Wendy's Wet Weekends **3.00** With a Little Help from My Friends **4.00** The Events at Black Tor. Jamie investigates the local undertaker **4.30** A Charles Paris Mystery: A Reconstructed Corpse **5.00** One Two Three Four: The Beatles in Time **5.15** The Citadel **5.30** A Trespasser's Guide to the Classics **6.00** Hancock's Half Hour **6.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **7.00** Nature Table **7.30** Robin and Wendy's Wet Weekends **8.00** Beatles at the BBC **9.00** Short Cuts **9.30** Rebus: Death Is Not the End **10.00** Room 101 with Paul Merton. With Claudia Winkleman **10.30** Pick-Ups **11.00** The Sofa of Time **11.30** The Mel and Sue Thing

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** The Climate Question **10.00** News **10.06** The Forum **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** Fukushima. Drama about the 2011 Japanese nuclear disaster. **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** Newsroom **1.30** Tech Life **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** The Climate Question **8.30** Healthcheck **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** Fukushima **11.00** Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** Forum **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** Newsroom **2.30** Assignment **3.00** News**3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** Food Chain

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Gemma Cairney **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Huw Stephens. Music, chat and features **7.00** Loud and Proud with Rufus Wainwright & Justin Vivian Bond **9.00** Big Joanie **12.00** Freak Zone Playlist **1.00am** Overnight Documentary

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am Chris Evans **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

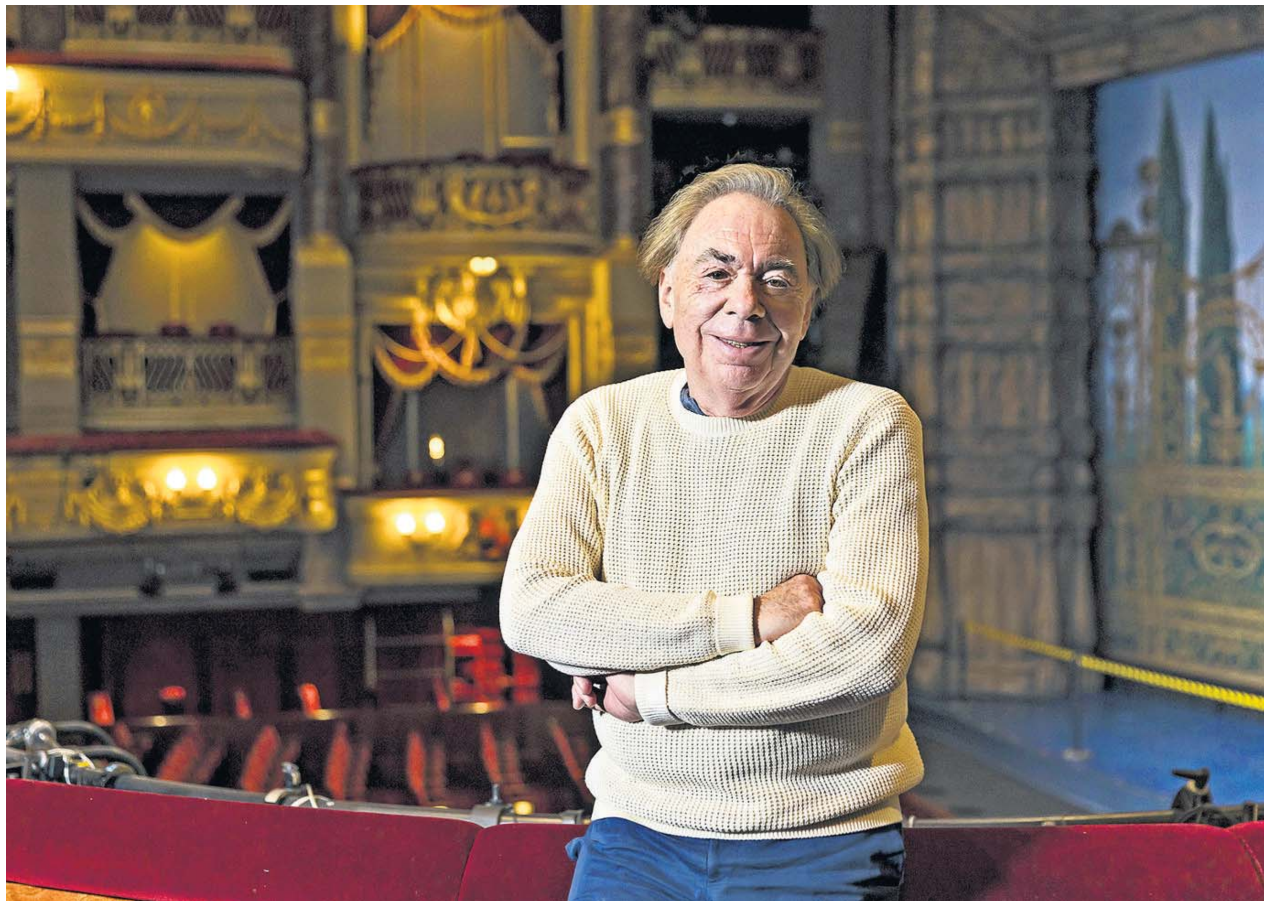
Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Thursday 1 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 9pm

The original and still the best genealogy programme returns for its 20th series and the first subject is musical royalty in the form of Andrew Lloyd Webber, *right*. Born in London in 1948, Lloyd Webber grew up in a musical family — his mother was an "extraordinary piano teacher", his father an "academic musician" and his younger brother, Julian, became one of the world's best cellists. "I suppose the one thing I would like to discover is where my love of musical theatre comes from," says Lloyd Webber before he embarks on his search. He begins by tracing his maternal line, going back through his granny Molly to his four-times great-grandparents Thomas and Jane Maitland. Their son — Lloyd Webber's four-times great-uncle Peregrine Maitland — had a distinguished military career and served in the Battle of Waterloo, being of such status that he features in a portrait with the Duke of Wellington. But why did his 12-times great-grandmother, the Duchess of Suffolk, marry down the class system? There weren't many show tunes being whistled by this aristocratic branch of his family, fascinating as they are. He has more luck with his father's side of the family, where he finds out that his plumber grandfather was also a tenor who sang at the 1937 coronation of George VI. As he goes back in time, the king of the West End finds a true East End "working-class hero" in his bloodline. Future episodes in the nine-part series feature the actresses Claire Foy and Lesley Manville, who uncover stories worthy of a TV drama, while Bear Grylls is delighted to end up in the wild through a surprising royal connection.
Joe Clay



Changing Ends
ITVX

Alan Carr winningly appears as the narrator of this semi-autobiographical sitcom that tells the story of his life growing up in Northamptonshire in the 1980s. By the mid-Eighties, he says, "puberty came along, punched me in the face and left me with the eyesight of a mole and the voice of an elderly lady". Oliver Savell plays the young Carr, "a social pariah", whose father, Graham (Shaun Dooley), is the manager of the fourth division football club Northampton Town. Alan is more into *Miss Marple* than *Match of the Day*, but when he is disowned by his footy-mad mate Charlie, he asks his dad for a few pointers. **JC**

The Days
Netflix

This eight-part thriller focuses on the events before and after a tsunami swallowed up the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant on March 11, 2011. Based on careful research, the action follows seven intense days from three different perspectives — government officials, employees of the Tokyo Electric Power Company and the people on site at Fukushima risking their lives to mitigate damage. With its cooling function lost, the power plant fell into a dangerous and uncontrollable state. What happened next left the country wondering if it was a natural disaster or a man-made one. **JC**

Strike: Inside the Unions
BBC2, 9pm

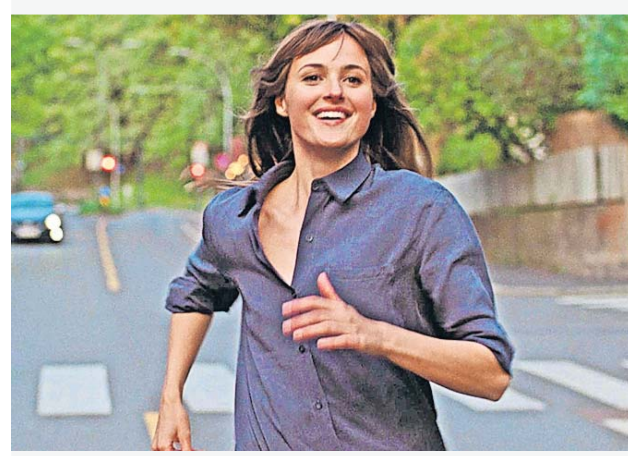
In the second episode, cameras follow Pat Cullen, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, through the bruising (and ultimately futile) negotiation process as the government makes a new pay offer. As the nurses prepare to strike again, the government mounts a successful legal challenge to their action provoking an angry reaction from Cullen. The episode also covers the first strike by Amazon workers and the Abellio bus drivers in London in their dispute over better pay and conditions. Will a hard-won deal satisfy the workers? **JC**

Alexander Armstrong in Sri Lanka
Channel 5, 9pm

Having had a jolly old time seeing the sights, Alexander Armstrong is heading off the tourist trail to find out how ancient history and recent conflicts shape the lives of Sri Lankans. He learns about the legacy of the vicious civil war in the north of the country that was fought between the insurgent Tamil Tigers and the Sinhalese-dominated government between 1983 and 2009. And he meets the man in charge of the largest landmine clearing operation in the country. **JC**

Films of the day

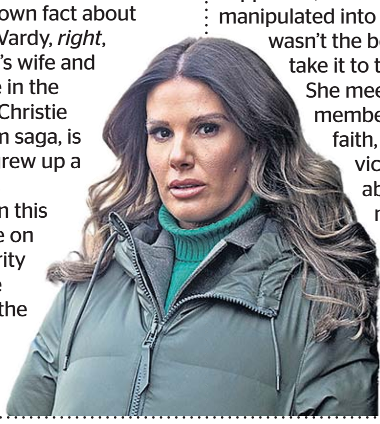
Bros (15, 2022)
Sky Cinema Premiere/Now, 8pm
This romantic comedy from the producer Judd Apatow is his first to feature an almost entirely LGBT cast and an all-gay storyline, and to be co-written by a gay man (Billy Eichner, also the star). Eichner plays Bobby, an LGBT activist, at a level turned up to 11. Bobby is supposed to be loud, proud and abrasive — it's the focus of the tension between him and his new boyfriend, Aaron (Luke Macfarlane). And yet Eichner's go-for-broke performance is a gamble. It suits the part, but it's wearisome. The gag quality is also hit and miss. The lines that do sing are wonderful (an elderly bodybuilder is described as "like they injected steroids into Dumbledore") and the direction by Nicholas Stoller is smart and pacey. It's just not, well, all that. (111min) **Kevin Maher**



The Worst Person in the World (15, 2021)
Film4, 10.50pm
This Norwegian romantic dramedy, directed and co-written by Joachim Trier, was nominated for two Oscars last year (best original screenplay and best international film). It describes the inner emotional life of Julie, an Oslo-based college dropout in her late twenties (Renate Reinsve, *above*). It is essentially a swirling mega-mix of *Fleabag*, *Frances Ha* and the comedies of Éric Rohmer. Julie falls for a successful graphic novelist, Aksel (Anders Danielsen Lie), who's already in his forties and craving stability. They begin a relationship but Julie is still searching. She encounters an aimless barista called Eivind (Herbert Nordrum) who could become her true soulmate. Conflict ensues and there is cancer, death and despair. (128min) **KM**

Catch up

Rebekah Vardy: Jehovah's Witnesses and Me
Channel 4
A little-known fact about Rebekah Vardy, *right*, footballer's wife and key figure in the Wagatha Christie courtroom saga, is that she grew up a Jehovah's Witness. In this latest take on the celebrity tell-all she says that the religion failed to support her through sexual abuse and shunned her as a child. In a "personal and investigative journey" she examines what happened and how it affected her. "From the age of around 12 years old, I was being abused," she says. "And instead of being supported, I was blamed, manipulated into believing it wasn't the best thing to take it to the police." She meets former members of the faith, including a victim of child abuse and the mother of a man who took his life after being expelled from the organisation. **Ben Dowell**



Regional programmes

● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** The View **11.20** Question Time. Fiona Bruce hosts the political debate from Leicester **12.25am FILM King of Thieves (2018) 2.05-6.00am** BBC News
● **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 10.00-10.30pm** The Peninsula Nurses (r)
● **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 11.15am** Bargain Hunt (r) **Midday-1.00pm** First Minister's Questions. Coverage of questions to First Minister Humza Yousaf **7.00-7.30pm** River City (r)
● **STV As ITV1 except: 11.40pm** Robson and Jim's Fly-Fishing Adventure. Robson and Jim travel from source to sea on Robson's home river of the Tyne (r) **12.30-3.00am** Teleshopping **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision. News and weather
● **UTV As ITV1 except: 10.45pm** UTV Life. Pamela Ballantine presents chat, music and a few surprises **11.15-11.40pm** Rare Breed: A Farming Year. The harvest starts, and a family is hoping for a good sale (r)
● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** Iain Robertson Rambles: The Hebridean Way (r) **7.30** Scotland's Home of the Year (r) **8.00** Beechgrove Garden. Advice on bedding plants, hanging baskets and lawn care **8.30** Landward. Dougie Vipond heads to the East Neuk of Fife to visit the Balcaskie Estate **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Trawlermen: Hunting the Catch (r) **11.00** Sportscene: Premiership Play-off Final Highlights. Action from the first leg **11.45pm-Midnight** Rewind 1980s (r)
● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw (r) **10.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Heledd Cynwal and Trystan Ellis Morris present coverage of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru National Eisteddfod in Carmarthenshire **12.00** News **12.05pm** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Live coverage of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru National Eisteddfod **1.55** News **2.00** Live Urdd: Defod y Cadeirio. The highlight of the day from Llwyfan y Cyfrwy on the grounds of the National Urdd Eisteddfod Carmarthenshire — the Chairing Ceremony **2.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. The rest of the secondary school pupils' competitions **6.00** Copsan. Rhods announces plans for a toga party **6.15** Cynefin (r) **6.30** Adre (r) **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Highlights of the day's events at the Urdd Gobaith Cymru National Eisteddfod in Carmarthenshire **9.25** News **9.30** Pawb a'i Farn. Topical programme giving the public the chance to voice their opinions **10.30** Iaith ar Daith. Actor Neet Mohan embarks on a road trip across Wales (r) **11.30-1.00** Eisteddfod yr Urdd (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

Also available online and on tablet
Digital subscribers can now use our interactive seven-day guide with comprehensive listings of all TV channels
thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Thursday 1

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Rip Off Britain **10.45** Fraud Squad **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Scarlett is accused of theft **2.15** Money for Nothing. Sign-writer Joel Poole repurposes some rusty saws **3.00** Escape to the Country. Jonnie Irwin help a couple find a home in Devon (r) **3.45** Garden Rescue. The team addresses the needs of a sad and unloved garden in Leicestershire **4.30** Clean It, Fix It. The team helps a grandmother makeover her messy lounge **5.15** Pointless. Quiz show hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Ria Lina **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather



Michael Caine stars (11.40pm)

7.00 The One Show Live magazine show, with Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

7.30 EastEnders Linda is shocked when Elaine's championship boxer fiancé and his daughters arrive from Marbella

8.00 MasterChef The search for the show's 19th champion reaches its climax, as the finalists produce the three courses they hope will secure them the title. Last in the series

9.00 Who Do You Think You Are? Andrew Lloyd Webber is astonished to uncover stories from his family's history that uncannily parallel his own life, including an ancestor with a famous cello-playing brother. **See Viewing Guide**

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 Question Time Fiona Bruce chairs the topical debate, inviting a panel of politicians and other guests in Leicester to answer questions from an invited audience

11.40 FILM King of Thieves (15, 2018) Retired criminals attempt to pull off a major burglary in London's jewellery district. Crime drama based on the Hatton Garden heist starring Michael Caine, Michael Gambon and Francesca Annis

1.20am Weather for the Week Ahead **1.25** BBC News

BBC2

6.00am Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) **6.30** Garden Rescue (r) **7.15** Clean It, Fix It (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: A Special School (r) (SL) **8.30** Caught Red Handed (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **1.00pm** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain (r) **2.45** A Countryside Summer (r) **3.15** What Britain Buys and Sells in a Day. Ed Balls, Ade Adepitan and Cherry Healey look at the seafood trade (r) **4.15** Back in Time for the Corner Shop (r) **5.15** Flog It! From Norwich Cathedral (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Edith Bowman, Fern Brady, Will Kirk and Martin Lewis take part (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels from the East Yorkshire resort of Hornsea to Spurn Point



Railway fan Michael Portillo (6.30pm)

7.00 Cricket: Today at the Test England v Ireland. Action from day one of the one-off Test from Lord's, as England started their build-up towards The Ashes

8.00 Springwatch Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan indulge viewers with the highlights ahead of the weekend, and Iolo Williams tries to see a white-tailed eagle or an osprey (4/12)

9.00 Strike: Inside the Unions Charting the start of the historic wave of 2022 strikes, which saw more days lost to strike action since the Thatcher era. **See Viewing Guide** (2/2)

10.00 Inside No 9 Alan arrives to teach at a small school (2/6) (r)

10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events, with Kirsty Wark

11.15 Forensics: The Real CSI West Midlands Police work with fire investigators to identify the cause of a major fire at a factory in Birmingham, hoping to find vital evidence before it is destroyed (3/4) (r)

12.15am Sign Zone: Dr Xand's Con or Cure. Rosamund Kissi-Debrah shares the story of her daughter's death from pollution (r) (SL) **1.00** Strike: Inside the Unions (r) (SL) **2.00** Frontline Fightback (r) (SL) **2.45-3.15** Iolo's Borderlands (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson is in Blackburn, where Matt Taylor happens upon an unlikely duet, Alys Dobbie sizes up a vintage dress, and Tim Hogarth coins it in (r) **3.00** Tenable. Five university friends answer Top 10 list questions and attempt to top the Tenable tower to win a big cash prize. Quiz show hosted by Sally Lindsay (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather



Daisy gives evidence (7.30pm)

7.00 Emmerdale Amy questions Chloe over her intentions with Mackenzie

7.30 Coronation Street While Daniel gives evidence against Justin, Daisy falters on her way to the witness box

8.00 Britain's Got Talent Ant and Dec host the nationwide talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts compete for the chance to win a cash prize and a slot at the Royal Variety Performance

10.00 ITV News at Ten; followed by Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 Our House Fi is left reeling by Bram's apparent involvement in the house sale. Meanwhile, in the past, Bram covers up his part in the accident (2/4) (r)

11.40 All Elite Wrestling: Rampage Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling

12.35am Teleshopping **3.00** Made in Britain. A look at the team of craftsmen and woman who make sure the Household Cavalry look their best when on parade (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Family Fortunes. With Gino D'Acampo (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. Cally Beaton is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Craig Rowe helps a couple to find a property near Estepona on Spain's Costa del Sol (r) **4.00** The Great House Giveaway. A house bought at auction that's been condemned, not once but twice (r) **5.00** Sarah Beeny's New Country Lives. James tackles his master bedroom as he renovates his home into a holiday rental **6.00** The Simpsons. Brazilian football legend Ronaldo guest stars (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Ethan and Sienna put their plan into motion (r)



Presenter Sarah Beeny (5pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News

8.00 24 Hours in A&E A man is rushed in after his fourth epileptic seizure of the day, while a 12-year-old girl requires extensive surgery after breaking her leg while scoring a try in a rugby match. Pre-watershed version (4/11) (r)

9.00 Taskmaster The contenders contemplate using a hose, create something soothing for two very specific professions and have an intense game of face-changing chess with Alex. Last in the series

10.00 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment Married couple Tom and Kirsty are looking to try new things. With Kirsty's support, Tom wants to sexually experiment with another man for the first time (3/8)

11.05 Untold: The Secret War of Boy Racers Ben Zand investigates the secretive world of the UK's new boy racers

11.40 Naked Attraction's Best Naughty Bits (7/8) (r)

12.35am Gender Wars (r) (SL) **1.25** 60 Days on the Estates (r) (SL) **2.20** Kids (r) (SL) **3.10** Grand Designs: The Streets (r) (SL) **4.00** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **4.50** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free (r) **5.10** Britain's Scenic Railways (r) (SL)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. The important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Remi's apology does not go down well with Cash (r) **2.15 FILM Cut, Colour, Murder (PG, TVM)** When a beauty pageant creator is found dead, a hairdresser works with a detective to clear the names of those she loves. Thriller starring Julie Gonzalo **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. A Chinese medicine tablet might be just what the doctor ordered for one rival **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. Team Wiki Woo competes (r) **6.30** Eggheads. Think Tank will be looking for a winning strategy to defeat the Eggheads (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



Alexander Armstrong (9pm)

7.00 The Cotswolds & Beyond with Pam Ayres The poet explores places surrounding the region, along the way meeting people who call this corner of England home (1/6) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Bargain Loving Brits by the Sea Cameras follow puppet enthusiast and Blackpool B&B owner Martin Scott Price, whose traditional British seaside Punch and Judy show is a hit with the kids (2/6); followed by 5 News Update

9.00 Alexander Armstrong in Sri Lanka On the last leg of his journey around the island of Sri Lanka, the presenter moves north into Tamil country, but first he has a close encounter with a cobra. Last in the series. **See Viewing Guide**

10.00 Killer at the Crime Scene In December 2019, police are called to Brighton seafront after a hit-and-run. Drones record the layout of the scene, and a 3D laser scan is made of the area. Last in the series (r)

11.05 Police: Suspect No 1 Detectives investigate after a violent attack on a group of friends on a night out leaves one of them critically injured and fighting for his life in hospital (4/6) (r)

12.05am Police Interceptors (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Walking Britain's Lost Railways (r) **3.50** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News **5.35** Fireman Sam (r) (SL) **5.45** Thomas (r) (SL)

Thursday 1 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat



Ingrid Bergman

An episode of Imagine tells the story of the actress in her own words
BBC4, 10.40pm

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max An initial insight into the day's news
6.30 The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show All the stories to start the day
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham The host takes a look through the morning newspapers
1.00pm Ian Collins Hard-hitting monologues and debates
4.00 Vanessa Feltz A look at the big stories of the day
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Live The host takes on the issues and stories that really matter
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored The host presents his verdict on the day's events
9.00 The Talk A panel of famous faces from the worlds of politics, showbiz, business and current affairs
10.00 First Edition A look at tomorrow's newspapers
11.00-12.00m't Piers Morgan Uncensored Discussion

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Top Gear (1/5)
8.00 MOTDx Football discussion
8.30 Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond Jenna has a singing gig in a bar in Edinburgh (10/10)
9.00 Bad Education Alfie and Miss Gulliver take a stand against violence when a new computer game inspires many children to imitate a dangerous move called the "blitz kick" (3/6)
9.30 Bad Education Alfie and Miss Gulliver escort their pupils to a petting zoo on field-trip day, while Fraser takes his students to a "poetry recital" that turns out to be a rap battle (4/6)
10.00 Black Ops Dom and Kay track down a new, potential undercover contact (4/6)
10.25 Famalam (1/4)
10.50 Famalam (2/4)
11.10 Brickies (1/6)
11.40-12.10am Brickies (2/6)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm The Pennine Way Paul Rose visits an archaeological dig in Northumberland (4/4)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain The construction of Britain's canals (5/6)
8.00 A House Through Time David Olusoga explores the house's history from the 1880s to the First World War, discovering how the battle of Passchendaele changed the residents' lives for ever (3/4)
9.00 FILM Casablanca (U, 1942) The owner of a Moroccan nightclub is reunited with an old flame who needs his help to escape the country. Romantic drama starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Claude Rains
10.40-12.20am Ingrid Bergman in Her Own Words: Imagine A profile of the life and career of the actress

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm The Dog House Curious four-month-old terrier siblings arrive at the centre in need of a forever home, and the staff unite an 82-year-old visitor and a lhasa apso who have both lost a loved one (5/8)
7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud meets a duo who plan to build a Roman-inspired home on the protected land surrounding one of Britain's most historic abbeys in Hertfordshire
9.00 Great British Dog Walks with Phil Spencer Phil is joined by Paralympic sprinter Libby Clegg (2/3)
10.00 George Clarke's Remarkable Renovations A former police station in West Yorkshire (3/6)
11.05-12.05am 24 Hours in A&E Exploring the hopes and expectations of three different men (5/8)

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm True Blood Eric leads a desperate mission to stop Bill and the Authority. Andy faces the consequences of his light pact, and Alcide prepares for a showdown with JD (12/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Cersei and Tywin plot their next move following Tommen's coronation, Daenerys hears some worrying news about Yunkai and Astapor, and Jon attacks the mutineers at Craster's Keep (5/10) (R)
9.00 Billions Axe deals with a family disturbance involving Lara, and Chuck considers the potential pitfalls while being vetted for political advancement (10/12) (R)
10.05 Billions Chuck and his father find they have much riding Ice Juice's new IPO (11/12) (R)
11.10-12.20am Gangs of London Elliot makes a choice that defines his future (9/9) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

7.00pm Ghislaine Maxwell: Epstein's Shadow Docuseries investigating the mysterious life of the former socialite (2/3) (R)
8.00 The Essex Murders Documentary about the killing of three notorious criminals known as the Essex Boys (2/3) (R)
9.00 FILM Wig (15, 2019) Colourful film exploring the history and influence of Wigstock, the annual drag festival that showcases the personalities and talent of the drag community
10.50 The Man Who Played with Fire Documentary about the assassination of Swedish prime minister Olof Palme in 1986 (1/4) (R)
11.50-2.00am FILM Inmate 1: The Rise of Danny Trejo (15, 2019) Film shining a spotlight on the actor's huge life transformation

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Superstore
7.30 Superstore
8.00 Bob's Burgers
8.30 Bob's Burgers
9.00 Gordon, Gino and Fred: European Road Trip The trio tour Gordon Ramsay's birthplace of Scotland, searching for ingredients for a grand feast (3/3)
10.00 Family Guy
10.30 Family Guy
11.00 Family Guy
11.30 American Dad!
11.55-12.25am American Dad!

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.55pm Heartbeat Drama series
8.00 Vera The ugly truth about a murder victim's past begins to emerge when the body of a drug dealer washes up on a beach, while Vera copes with revelations of her own
10.00 Scott & Bailey Rachel helps DCI Murray on a rape and murder case, and, back at home, she makes a shocking discovery
11.00-12.05am Scott & Bailey The duo investigate the murder of an eight-year-old boy

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.55pm BattleBots Minotaur goes head-to-head with Subzero
8.00 The Great British Treasure Hunt The grand finale takes place at Stowe School in Buckinghamshire, one of Britain's greatest country houses (5/5)
9.00 Isle of Man TT: Preview Programme A look ahead to this year's event, featuring interviews with leading figures in the sport
10.00-12.45am FILM Die Hard (15, 1988) Action thriller starring Bruce Willis and Alan Rickman

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Yazz opens up to Tom about her concerns
7.30 The Big Bang Theory
8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht Madison and Georgia's friendship is pushed to the brink
9.00 Gogglebox
10.00 Naked Attraction
11.05 Impractical Jokers The guys compete in a waiting room in the first-ever four-way challenge
11.40-12.05am Impractical Jokers The guys work behind the counter at a barbecue restaurant

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games Double bill of the quiz
8.20 Room 101 Panel show
9.00 Live at the Apollo Stand-up comedians Rob Beckett, Jen Brister and Darren Harriott perform
10.00 Meet the Richardsons Jon and Lucy spend the night at one of Britain's most haunted houses for a Halloween special
10.40 Mock the Week An episode of the panel show from July 2014
11.20 Mock the Week Panel show
12.00-12.40am Mock the Week

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Wesley makes a handmade trolley
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine Glenda receives a chaise longue as an anniversary present
8.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators Frank and Lu are framed by doppelgangers
9.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators Frank and Lu investigate a missing person case
10.00 New Tricks The team look into the murder of a junior doctor
11.20-1.55am Silent Witness

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Bangers And Cash A MG Midget, an Austin-Healey 'frogeye' Sprite and an RS2000 come up for auction
8.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics The team restores a super-rare Renault Clio Williams 2 (4/6)
9.00 Classic Car Garage Colin brings a rare Ford Zephyr into the 21st Century (7/10)
10.00 Bangers and Cash (8/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys (5/15)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.50pm Grand Tours of Scotland Travelling to rural Perthshire (4/6)
7.30 Lost and Found: The Search for the USS Lagarto
8.35 Inside Japan's War A look at the experiences of those in the occupied territories (3/4)
9.45 America and the Taliban How the Taliban came out victorious over America after 20 years (3/3)
10.50 Lost and Found: The Search for the USS Lagarto
12.00-1.15am America and the Taliban Documentary (3/3)

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Discovering: Natalie Wood Portrait of the actress (11/14)
8.00 Landscape Artist of the Year: Celebrity Special Famous faces take part in the challenge (9/10)
9.00 The Directors A look at the life and career of Spike Lee
10.00 Bafta: Life in Pictures Stars look back on their careers (1/6)
11.00 The Sixties Exploring the changing face of America (1/10)
12.00-2.00am Peter Frampton: FCA! 35 Tour Footage from the guitarist's 35th anniversary tour

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Forged in Fire
8.00 Blown Away New series. The competitors create pieces that reveal how they see themselves
8.30 Blown Away The competitors create different household items
9.00 A Cut Above Things get wet and wild making water-features
10.00 Dirty Old Cars A Jeep Cherokee requires a major rescue
10.30 Dirty Old Cars A Packard
11.00 Counting Cars Documentary
12.00-1.00am Secret Wars Uncovered Cambodian Civil War

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stop, Search, Seize The work of Ireland's border force
8.00 Football's Funniest Moments Comical incidents from football
8.30 Enter the Spider-Verse: A Spider-Man Special Celebrity fans look back on more than 20 years of *Spider-Man* movies
9.00 Last King of the Cross Crime drama. The war between John and Fat George escalates (3/10)
10.15 Fantasy Island (6/10)
11.15-12.15am The Force: Manchester Documentary (1/10)

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation
8.00 Car S.O.S.: Ultimate Countdown Tim and Fuzz discuss old and new tech in past seasons
9.00 Wicked Tuna Internet sensation Michelle Bancewicz begins her tenure in style
10.00 Lawless Island With winter on its way, Sam and Squibb band together to build Curly a hoist
11.00 Air Crash Investigation
12.00-1.00am Banged Up Abroad (4/10) A man who infiltrated the Hells Angels finally tells his story

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Bitchin' Rides The C10 moves into final assembly
8.00 Gold Divers Shawn has a breakthrough in his negotiations
9.00 Naked and Afraid: Solo Two survivalists begin their challenge
10.00 Naked and Afraid XL One all-star survivalist quits
12.00-1.00am Combat Dealers

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Wellington Paranormal Spoof documentary series (6/6)
7.30 The Office (US) Comedy
8.00 The Conners Comedy
8.30 The Office (US) Jim returns
9.00 Somebody Somewhere (6/8)
9.30 Somebody Somewhere (7/8)
10.05 And Just Like That... (7/10)
10.50-11.30pm Barry (8/8)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends Four episodes
9.00 Romesh Ranganathan: Irrational Live Stand-up
10.00 Digman! Rip gets a hot lead
10.30 Mike Judge's Beavis & Butt-Head Animated comedy
11.00 Reno 911! Double bill
12.00-12.30am Most Ridiculous On the Job Online video clips

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Are You Being Served?
7.40 Dad's Army Double bill
9.00 The Cleaner Wicky attends the scene of a fatal electrocution
9.40 The Cleaner Wicky heads to a holiday home in the country
10.20 Harry Enfield and Chums
11.00 The Office New staff arrive
11.40-12.20am The Office

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

6.00pm MasterChef Australia
7.30 Inside the Ambulance
8.00 DIY SOS: Grenfell
9.00 24 Hours in A&E A man arrives after riding his bicycle into the back of a parked ambulance
10.00 999 Rescue Squad
11.00-12.10am Louis Theroux: The Most Hated Family in America

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

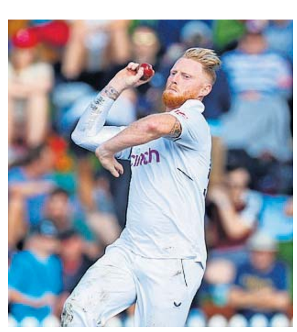
7.00pm Person of Interest
8.00 Father Brown (5/10)
9.00 Murdoch Mysteries Ogden has a tricky murder to solve
10.00 Father Brown
11.00 Person of Interest
12.00-1.00am Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators Comic detective drama (10/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

10.00am Live Test Cricket: England v Ireland Coverage of day one of the one-off Test from Lord's, London, as England start their build-up towards the Ashes.
6.45pm Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Yorkshire Vikings v Lancashire Lightning Coverage of the Northern Division match
10.30 Back Pages Tonight Sports stories in tomorrow's newspapers
11.00-12.00m't Sky Sports News
2.00-5.00am Live NBA Coverage of game one of the NBA Finals

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm Premier League Stories Charting the journey of this season's title contenders
8.00 Gary Neville's Soccerbox With Paul Scholes
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox With Robbie Fowler
9.00 Premier League Stories Charting the journey of this season's title contenders
10.00 Premier League Icons A profile of Duncan Ferguson
10.30-12.30am PL Retro Man United v Arsenal from 2003



Ben Stokes captains England in a one-off Test against Ireland (Sky Main Event, 10am)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

10.00am Live Test Cricket: England v Ireland Coverage of day one of the one-off Test from Lord's
6.45pm Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Yorkshire Vikings v Lancashire Lightning Coverage of the Northern Division match, which is held at Headingley
10.30 Test Cricket Action from day one of England v Ireland
11.30 Test Cricket Bitesize Featuring highlights of day one of England v Ireland
11.45-12.00m't Ashes Greats

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

6.00am-2.30pm Live Badminton Coverage of the Round of 16 at the Thailand Open, which takes place at Indoor Stadium Huamark in Bangkok, Thailand
5.00-6.00 Live World Rally Championship Coverage of the latest round of the season, which takes place in Italy
7.00 The Football's On
8.00 MLB: Off The Bat
8.30-12.00m't Live MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks v Colorado Rockies (Start-time **8.40**)

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

6.00pm Live PSA Squash Coverage of the El Gouna International semi-finals, which takes place at Gouna Conference & Culture Centre in El Gouna, Egypt
10.30 ESPN FC Presents: Gab & Juls Gab Marcotti and Julien Laurens discuss all the latest news, rumour and gossip
11.00 UFC Fight Camp Exclusive access, interviews and features with fighters and analysis from a team of experts
11.30-12.30am The Football's On

Thursday 1

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am The Red Pony (U, 1949) Drama starring Robert Mitchum and Myrna Loy **12.50pm Shenandoah (PG, 1965)** Western starring James Stewart and Glenn Corbett **3.00 Captain Scarlett (U, 1953)** Swashbuckling adventure starring Richard Greene and Leonora Amar **4.35 An Affair to Remember (U, 1957)** Drama with Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr **6.50 Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (PG, 1993)** Comedy sequel with Whoopi Goldberg **9.00 Commando (18, 1985)** Action adventure starring Arnold Schwarzenegger **10.50-1.25am The Worst Person in the World (15, 2021)** Premiere. A woman navigates the troubled waters of her love life and career. Comedy romance starring Renate Reinsve. **See Film Choice**

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Honey West 6.30 The Stable Door (PG, 1966) Short crime drama **7.10 Great Day in the Morning (U, 1956)** Western with Robert Stack and Virginia Mayo **9.00 Black Saddle 9.30 Another Man's Poison (PG, 1951)** Thriller starring Bette Davis and Anthony Steel **11.15 Convict Stage (PG, 1965)** Western starring Harry Lauter **12.45pm The End of the Line (PG, 1957)** Crime drama starring Alan Baxter **2.05 Towed in a Hole (U, 1932)** Comedy starring Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy **2.30 Crown Court 3.00 Alive and Kicking (U, 1958)** Comedy starring Sybil Thorndike, Kathleen Harrison and Estelle Winwood **5.00 McLintock! (U, 1963)** Western with John Wayne **7.40 Look at Life 8.00 The Saint 9.00 Justice 10.00-11.55pm The Groundstar Conspiracy (PG, 1972)** Thriller starring George Peppard and Michael Sarrazin

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Kidnapped: 48 Hours of Terror (15, 2010) Thriller starring Ian Ziering **10.50 GREAT! Movie News 11.00 Mommy Be Mine (12, 2018)** Thriller starring Arianne Zucker and Ava Locklear **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News 1.00 The Midwife's Deception (PG, 2018)** Thriller with Katie Savoy and Penelope Mitchell **2.50 GREAT! Movie News 3.00 Til Death Do Us Part: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2021)** Mystery starring Candace Cameron Bure **4.50 GREAT! Movie News**



New comedy Bros (Sky Cinema Premiere, 8pm)

5.00 Murder 101: If Wishes Were Horses (PG, 2007) Mystery with Dick Van Dyke **6.50 GREAT! Movie News 7.00 Pregnant and Alone (PG, 2020)** Drama starring Emmanuelle Vaugier **8.50 GREAT! Movie News 9.00 Men of Honor (15, 2000)** Drama with Cuba Gooding Jr **11.30-2.20am A Few Good Men (15, 1992)** Drama starring Tom Cruise and Demi Moore

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.00am TCM Shorts 6.30 Off Set 6.45 One of Our Spies is Missing (U, 1966) Adventure starring Robert Vaughn **8.35 Ice Station Zebra (U, 1968)** Adventure with Rock Hudson and Ernest Borgnine **11.40 Murder Most Foul (U, 1964)** Miss Marple mystery starring Margaret Rutherford **1.30pm Battle of the Bulge (PG, 1965)** Second World War drama starring Robert Shaw **4.55 Hired Gun (U, 1957)** Western with Rory Calhoun **6.15 Waterloo (U, 1970)** Drama starring Rod Steiger and Christopher Plummer **9.00 Righteous Kill (15, 2008)** Crime thriller starring Robert De Niro and Al Pacino **11.10-1.00am Trespass (15, 2011)** Thriller starring Nicolas Cage and Nicole Kidman

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.10pm Blueback (PG, 2022) Drama starring Mia Wasikowska and Eric Bana **2.10 Alone Together (15, 2022)** Drama starring Katie Holmes and Jim Sturgess **4.05 Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG, 2022)** Musical comedy starring Javier Bardem **6.05 The Cinema List: Fast Cars** Countdown **6.20 Summering (12, 2022)** Drama starring Lia Barnett **8.00 Bros (15, 2022)** Premiere. Two men with commitment problems attempt a relationship. Comedy starring Billy Eichner. **See Film Choice 10.00-11.55pm Halloween Ends (18, 2022)** Horror sequel starring Jamie Lee Curtis

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Luke Jones with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Patrick Maguire **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Country Show with Bob Harris **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast 9.00 Essential Classics 12.00 Composer of the Week: Domenico Scarlatti The composer's introduction to a new student, who would go on to change the course of his life **1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Pianist Charles Owen performs at the Hay Festival. Schubert (Impromptu in G flat, D899/3; Impromptu in B flat, D935/3); Liszt (*Les jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este*) and Franck (Prelude, Choral et Fugue) **2.00 Afternoon Concert** Mozart (Symphony No 29 in A, K. 201); Chaminade (Thème varié for piano, Op 89); Shostakovich (*Festive Overture* Op 96); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 3 in A minor) and Revueltas (*Sensemayá*) **5.00 In Tune** Music news **7.00 Classical Mixtape 7.30 Live Radio 3 in Concert** Ryan Bancroft and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales perform at St David's Hall in Cardiff. Grace Williams (*Concert Overture*); Mozart (Symphony No 39 in E flat) and Richard Strauss (*Don Quixote*) **10.00 Free Thinking** Rana Mitter is joined at the Hay Festival by Kapka Kassabova, Noreen Masud and Patrick Barham for a conversation about writing on landscapes **10.45 The Essay: Charles Aznavour in Five Songs** Paul French delves into the history of *The Old Fashioned Way* **11.00 The Night Tracks Mix 11.30 Unclassified 12.30am Through the Night**

Today's pick

In Our Time
Radio 4, 9am
Sophocles' tragedy *Oedipus Rex* is the subject of today's discussion. Its story of the king of Thebes who unwittingly fulfils a prophecy that he would kill his father and sleep with his mother also inspired Sigmund Freud's landmark theory about a child's unconscious sexual impulses. Melvyn Bragg's guests today are Edith Hall, classics professor at the University of Durham; Nick Lowe, reader in classics at



Royal Holloway, University of London; and Fiona Macintosh, *above*, professor of classical reception and director of the archive of performances of Greek and Roman drama at Oxford. Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today 5.58 Tweet of the Day (r) **6.00 Today 9.00 In Our Time** The history of ideas. **See Choice 9.45 Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History** (4/5) **9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Woman's Hour 10.25-7.00 (LW) Test Match Special: England v Ireland** Commentary on day one of the four-day Test at Lord's **11.00 From Our Own Correspondent 11.30 Great Lives** (r) **12.01pm (LW) Shipping 12.04 You and Yours 12.30 Sliced Bread 1.00 The World at One 1.45 Oliver Burkeman's Inconvenient Truth 2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 Drama: Undercover Mumbai** Crime drama (3/3) (r) **3.00 Ramblings** Clare Balding is on the Dorset coast **3.27 Radio 4 Appeal** (r) **3.30 Open Book** (r) **4.00 Princess** Mesopatamian princess Enheduanna **4.30 BBC Inside Science 5.00 PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Unite** New run (1/6) **7.00 The Archers** Harrison sets himself a new challenge **7.15 Front Row** Arts news **8.00 Law in Action** (r) **8.30 The Patch** (r) **9.00 BBC Inside Science** (r) **9.30 In Our Time** (r) **10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The House of Doors** By Tan Twan Eng. A story set in 1920s Penang (4/10) **11.00 Rylan: How to Be a Man** Rylan chats to Phil Wang **11.30 The Spark** (r) **12.00 News and Weather 12.30am Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History** (4/5) (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **7.30** 5 Live Cricket **8.00** 5 Live Sport **10.00** Colin Murray **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Baker **4.00** talkSPORT Drive **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Andre Walker **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am The Burkiss Way **8.30** Kalangadog Junction **9.00** Jest a Minute **9.30** Clare in the Community **10.00** Lennon: A Week in the Life **10.45** A Point of View **11.00** The Events at Black Tor **11.30** A Charles Paris Mystery: A Reconstructed Corpse **12.00** One Two Three Four: The Beatles in Time **12.15pm** The Citadel **12.30** On the Rocks **1.00** The Burkiss Way **1.30** Kalangadog Junction **2.00** Jest a Minute **2.30** Clare in the Community **3.00** Lennon: A Week in the Life **3.45** A Point of View **4.00** The Events at Black Tor **4.30** A Charles Paris Mystery: A Reconstructed Corpse **5.00** One Two Three Four: The Beatles in Time **5.15** The Citadel **5.30** On the Rocks **6.00** The Burkiss Way **6.30** Kalangadog Junction **7.00** Jest a Minute **7.30** Clare in the Community. Comedy, with Sally Phillips **8.00** Tears of a Clown: Kissinger's Century **9.00** Frankly Speaking **9.30** Across the Narrow Water **10.00** It's a Fair Cop **10.30** Tom Wrigglesworth's Hang-Ups **11.00** Ida Barr: Artificial Hip Hop **11.15** Political Animals **11.30** Rigor Mortis

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** Assignment **10.00** News **10.06** Unexpected Elements **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Food Chain **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Healthcheck **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** The Inquiry **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** Assignment **8.30** Science in Action **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** The Inquiry **10.30** The Food Chain **11.00** Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** Unexpected Elements **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Tech Life **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** Heart and Soul

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Gemma Cairney **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Huw Stephens. Music and chat **6.00** Roundtable **7.00** Loud and Proud with Lava La Rue & Kindness **9.00** Big Joanie **12.00** New Music Fix with Steve Lamacq **1.00am** New Music Fix with Mary Anne Hobbs

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics **10.00** Calm Classics. Ritula Shah presents **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Friday 2 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice In Concert: Gordon Lightfoot

BBC4, 9pm



When the Canadian folk musician Gordon Lightfoot, *right*, died aged 84 on May 1, the outpouring of tributes said everything about how much his songs mean to so many, decades after their release. While Justin Trudeau gave the statesmanlike tribute of "[he] captured our country's spirit in his music", Ben Stiller was tweeting, "What a genius… His music is such a big part of my life." Tonight, the unacquainted have a chance to see why Lightfoot is held in such high esteem, while fans will need no convincing to watch a classic BBC studio concert broadcast in 1972 (taped in the spring of 1971). He's accompanied by Richard Haynes and Red Shea, and his acoustic songs start with *Summer Side of Life* and continue with *Steel Rail Blues*, *Early Morning Rain* and several more that showcase his deft melodies. His rendition of his best-known song, *If You Could Read My Mind*, is so bittersweet and beautiful you can understand why Bob Dylan once said: "Every time I hear a song of his it's like I wish it would last for ever." When Frank Sinatra attempted to cover *If You Could Read My Mind* he ended up frustrated, unable to capture its emotional nuance (it's all about the guilt and hurt caused by the breakdown of Lightfoot's first marriage). With the vivid storytelling of his lyrics — the closing *Canadian Railroad Trilogy* sings of the history of his native land ("When the green dark forest was too silent to be real") — and deeply relaxing melodies, the concert is both a tribute to Lightfoot and a fine way to wind down from the week.
James Jackson

Scoop

Netflix

A hard-hitting six-part Indian drama (one intended to be the first in a franchise), this concerns Jagruti Pathak (Karishma Tanna), an ambitious crime reporter who has a tendency to ruffle feathers in getting her head-turning stories. Then she finds that she is the story when she becomes the principal suspect in the slaying of a fellow journalist. She is accused of using her contacts in the underworld to kill her competitor. The idea of the "reporter becoming the reported" (as its maker Hansal Mehta puts it) is a neat hook for what's a slick investigative procedural in Mumbai. **JJ**

My Husband the MMA Fighter

BBC1, 7.30pm

The *Our Lives* strand returns with another short but illuminating insight into an offbeat way of life. Here we meet Natalie Ray, a 30-year-old mum of four, married to the mixed martial arts fighter Stevie "Braveheart" Ray, who's a fight away from becoming Scotland's first world champion. But at what cost? He retired in 2020 and this is his comeback, the fight of his life. But getting to the top requires sacrifices, a restrictive diet and a punishing training regimen. This is the tale of his all-or-nothing fight for $1 million told through Natalie's eyes. **JJ**

Hidden Treasures of the National Trust

BBC2, 9pm

The fourth episode of this series following National Trust conservation experts visits three houses in the northeast of England. One of those, perched in woodland in Northumberland, is the awe- inspiring Victorian mansion Cragside, built by the industrialist William Armstrong, who made his fortune selling weapons and warships. He was fanatical about timekeeping, and the beating heart of his estate was the clock housed in a bespoke tower — which needs a full repair job. **JJ**

Poker Face

Sky Max/Now, 9pm

The crime-cracking show with the most offbeat sleuth on the block — Natasha Lyonne's Charlie Cale — continues with a double bill of cases. First up, Charlie, still on the run from the casino boss, gets a job at a Texas barbecue joint. There's a death among the meat… In the second, she ends up on tour with a group of washed-up rock musicians, among them Chloë Sevigny. There is a death among the amps… In each episode we see the incident in the first 15 minutes, and there's fun to be had from the rich little characterisations even before Charlie shows up in her vintage Plymouth Barracuda. **JJ**

Films of the day

Eastern Promises (18, 2007)

BBC1, 12.35am

David Cronenberg's lurid thriller is set in a world where taciturn men sport tattoos that read like novels; where young women are contraband to be trafficked and discarded. It's a glimpse of the underworld inhabited by the Russian mafia in London. Accents are as thick and colourful as bortsch, and vodka flows almost as freely as the blood. Into the world stumbles Anna (Naomi Watts), a midwife searching for the identity of a woman who died in childbirth during her shift. Her quest brings her to the door of the Trans-Siberian restaurant, a gloomily opulent enterprise headed by Semyon and his volatile son Kirill. Anna connects with Kirill's enforcer Nikolai (Viggo Mortensen), a cold-eyed killer who is not everything he seems. (100min) **Wendy Ide**



Blindspotting (15, 2018)

Film4, 1.30am

Carlos López Estrada's witty and powerful drama stars Daveed Diggs as Collin, an African-American removal man in Oakland, California, who has three days left of his post-prison probation. Just three more days to keep his nose clean, although that's by no means a done deal given that his white best friend, Miles (Rafael Casal, *above with Diggs*), is a hot-headed trouble magnet who has just got his hands on a gun. It's acted with naturalistic brio, and the script, by Diggs and Casal, is full of pungent dialogue and nuanced reflections on Collin's struggle to avoid becoming a stereotypically angry young black man, Miles's efforts to earn authenticity by acting black, and their shared incredulity at seeing their neighbourhood overrun by hipsters. (91min) **Ed Potton**

Catch up

High Desert

AppleTV+



There's some serious star power driving this addictive eight-part comedy drama. Patricia Arquette plays Peggy Newman, who with her bleach-blonde hair, voluminous new age kaftans and addled air resembles a slightly more together version of Jennifer Coolidge's Tanya in *The White Lotus*. Peggy has a chequered past and is in addiction recovery and grieving over the recent death of her mother. Her uptight younger siblings want to kick her out of the house she once shared with her mom and, determined to make a new start, she decides to divorce her incarcerated husband (Matt Dillon) and reinvent herself as a private investigator. Completing the cast are Rupert Friend (*Homeland*) as Guru Bob, a former news anchor turned mystic desert dude, and Weruche Opia (*I May Destroy You*) as Peggy's best friend, Carol. **Joe Clay**

Regional programmes

● **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 7.30-8.00pm** Wynne's Welsh 70s. Wynne Evans explores the BBC Wales archives of 1974 **8.30-9.00** Our Lives: My Husband the MMA Fighter. A key fight for cage fighting pro Stevie 'Braveheart' Ray **11.30** Rookie Nurses (r) **12.05-12.35am** Would I Lie to You? With Chizzy Akudolu (r)
● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 7.30pm** Feed Yourself Fitter with Stephen Nolan. A woman struggling with weight gain since she started the menopause **8.00** Restoration Rescue (r) **8.30-9.00pm** Our Lives: My Husband the MMA Fighter
● **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 11.15-12.15pm** Homes Under the Hammer. Featuring properties in Lancashire and Somerset **8.00pm** Landward (r) **8.30-9.00pm** Question of Sport (r)
● **STV As ITV1 except: 1.30-5.00pm** Live STV Racing: The Oaks. Coverage from Epsom, including the **4.30** Betfred Oaks and chief supporting race the **3.15** Coronation Cup **10.35-10.45** STV News **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision
● **UTV As ITV1 except: 10.45pm** Our House (r) **11.45-12.45am** Our House (r)
● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** The Seven **8.00** Scottish Cup Classics (r) **8.30** Scottish Cup Classics (r) **9.00** Ballistic: Super Caley's Big Night (r) **9.30** Still Game (r) **10.00pm-Midnight** Radio 1's Big Weekend Dundee Highlights
● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw (r) **10.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Heledd Cynwal and Trystan Ellis Morris present coverage of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru National Eisteddfod in Carmarthenshire **12.00** News **12.05pm** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. The competitions for the senior pupils of the secondary schools from the red, white and green pavilions at the Carmarthenshire Urdd Eisteddfod **1.55** News **2.00** Live Urdd: Defod y Coroni. The highlight of the day from Llwyfan y Cyfrwy at the National Urdd Eisteddfod Carmarthenshire — the Crowning Ceremony **2.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. The rest of the competitions for older secondary school pupils in the company of Trystan Ellis Morris and Heledd Cynwal **6.00** Copsan **6.15** Copsan **6.30** Glannau Cymru o'r Awyr (r) **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Eisteddfod yr Urdd **9.25** News **9.30** Canu gyda Fy Arwr. Rhys Meirion celebrates Welshness (r) **10.30** Dim Byd Fel Hogia'r Wyddfa. Satirical current affairs (r) **11.00** Cymry ar Gynfas. Landscape artist Lisa Eurgain Taylor paints a portrait of Trystan Ellis-Morris (r) **11.30-1.00** Eisteddfod yr Urdd (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

TV newsletter

Sign up to our TV bulletin offering the best TV and film tips, direct to your inbox every Friday. The newsletter covers the TV Editor's pick of box sets to stream, along with tips on the best programmes and films around. To start receiving it, digital subscribers can go to thetimes.co.uk/bulletins and tick the box next to "Television".

Friday 2

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Rip Off Britain **10.45** Fraud Squad **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Father Brown. Goodfellow witnesses Mallory frame an innocent man (r) **2.30** Money for Nothing. Designer Sarah Peterson gives two side tables a stylish new look (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. A young couple seek to swap town life for rural North Yorkshire (r) **3.45** Garden Rescue. Charlie Dimmock and Lee Burkhill design a relaxing zen garden in Greater Manchester **4.30** Clean It, Fix It **5.15** Pointless. Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Ria Lina **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather



Eastern Promises (12.35am)

7.00 The One Show Live weekday magazine show, presented by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

7.30 Our Lives: My Husband the MMA Fighter A key fight for cage fighting pro Stevie Ray. **See Viewing Guide**

8.00 Question of Sport Light-hearted quiz show, hosted by Paddy McGuinness

8.30 Would I Lie to You? With panellists Chizzy Akudolu, Simon Gregson, Michelle Visage and Henning Wehn (2/12) (r)

9.00 Have I Got News for You Naga Munchetty guest hosts, with panellists including Baroness Ruth Davidson (8/10)

9.30 Black Ops Dom and Kay set about investigating Riverford Residential Home (5/6)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 The Chris & Rosie Ramsey Show Husband-and-wife duo Chris and Rosie are joined by guests including *First Dates'* real-life Cupid Fred Sirieix and his fiancée Fruitcake (4/6)

11.30 Bump Angie, Vince and Rosa receive some unwanted Mother's Day surprises (5/10)

12.00 Bump. Bowie offers a surprising insight into his parents' lives **12.35am FILM Eastern Promises (18, 2007)** Gangster thriller starring Naomi Watts and Viggo Mortensen. **See Film Choice 2.15** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.20** BBC News

BBC2

6.00am Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) **6.30** Garden Rescue (r) **7.15** Clean It, Fix It (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Gardeners' World (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **1.00pm** Impossible. Quiz (r) **1.45** Eggheads. Quiz show (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. Examining the environmental factors that contribute to West Yorkshire's Rhubarb Triangle (r) **2.45** A Countryside Summer (r) **3.15** What Britain Buys and Sells in a Day. Ed Balls, Ade Adepitan and Cherry Healey look at the automotive trade (r) **4.15** Back in Time for the Corner Shop. The Arden family experience corner shop life in the 1980s and 1990s (r) **5.15** Flog It! (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo reaches Lincolnshire



The Clock Tower at Cragside (9pm)

7.00 Cricket: Today at the Test England v Ireland. Action from day two of the four-day one-off Test from Lord's

8.00 Gardeners' World Monty Don creates colourful planting schemes with trailing plants, and Toby Buckland revels in the displays of roses at Mount Ephraim Gardens in Kent

9.00 Hidden Treasures of the National Trust A look behind the scenes at three unique houses in the North East of England that together tell a story of wealth, industry and art in Northumbria. **See Viewing Guide** (4/6)

10.00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Bob and Paul travel to the Crogen Estate in north Wales (2/6) (r)

10.30 Newsnight Headline analysis, with Victoria Derbyshire

11.05 MOTDx Football discussion presented by Jermaine Jenas

11.35 Strike: Inside the Unions A look at the wave of industrial action that engulfed the UK at the end of 2022 (2/2) (r)

12.35am Sign Zone: Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland. Stories of the Troubles from people on all sides of the conflict (r) (SL) **1.50** Forensics: The Real CSI (r) (SL) **2.50-3.50** Matt Willis: Fighting Addiction (r) (SL) **5.10** This Is BBC Two. Programme previews

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine. Magazine programme **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Celebrity interviews and topical debate from a female perspective **1.00** ITV News; Weather **1.20** Regional News; Weather **1.30** Live ITV Racing: The Oaks. Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present coverage from Epsom, including the **4.30** Betfred Oaks and chief supporting race the **3.15** Coronation Cup. With analysis from Jason Weaver and Johnny Murtagh, reports from Rishi Persad, Oli Bell, Matt Chapman and Mick Fitzgerald, betting news from Brian Gleeson, and commentary from Richard Hoiles **5.00** The Chase. General knowledge quiz, hosted by Bradley Walsh (r) **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather



The drama Our House (10.45pm)

7.00 Emmerdale Nicky begins to feel the pressure building, and agrees to meet Ally in private

7.30 Coronation Street Ryan endures a courtroom interrogation, before Justin delivers his version of events

8.00 Britain's Got Talent Ant and Dec host the nationwide talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts compete for the chance to win a cash prize and a much coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance

10.00 ITV News at Ten; followed by Weather

10.35 Regional News; followed by Regional Weather

10.45 Our House Fi has to come to terms with losing the house and tries to find out more about Bram's whereabouts. She turns to her new partner, Toby, for support, but he has secrets of his own (3/4) (r)

11.45 Our House Fi finally discovers the truth behind the house sale, and Bram must come to terms with his own actions (4/4) (r)

12.45am Teleshopping **3.00** Million Pound Pawn. A woman hoping a Rolex watch can change her fortunes (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Ainsley's Caribbean Kitchen. The first of two visits to Antigua (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Searching for a holiday home in Mijas Pueblo on the Costa del Sol (r) **4.00** The Great House Giveaway. A dated property bought at auction in Greater Manchester. Last in the series (r) **5.00** Sarah Beeny's New Country Lives. Gary and Annette plan their dream country home **6.00** The Simpsons. Bart costs the Isotots baseball team the championship (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Yazz opens up to Tom about her concerns (r)



The Big Interiors Battle (8pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News

8.00 The Big Interiors Battle The semi-finalists tackle the challenge of the spare rooms in their apartments with hopes of impressing judge Dara Huang and making it to the final two (7/8)

9.00 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week, with cameras capturing their instant reactions

10.00 The Lateish Show with Mo Gilligan The host chews the fat with big-name guests including athlete Mo Farah and comedian Guz Khan. Plus, exciting games, hilarious sketches and superstar performances

11.05 Sarah Millican: Chatterbox Live Stand-up show recorded at London's Bloomsbury Theatre in 2011, in which the comedienne shares humorous insights into her life, including the perils of living alone (r)

12.10am FILM Charlie's Angels (12, 2019) Comedy thriller **2.05** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. An Irish pub (r) (SL) **2.55** Come Dine with Me (r) **5.00** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free (r) **5.15** The Yorkshire Dales and the Lakes: Season by Season (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.15pm** Alexis Conran **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Female admirers at Remi's busking make Bree uneasy (r) **2.15 FILM Killer Family: A Nanny Nightmare (12, TVM, 2020)** A woman forgets a broken relationship by becoming an au pair for an out-of-town couple — only to discover they hide a dark secret. Thriller, with Annie Heise **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. The host and Paul Hayes compete to become King of the Antiques North **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. The FF9 Friends will try to outplay the Eggheads (r) **6.30** Eggheads. The team WHAT hope to defeat the Eggheads (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



Susan Calman's Grand Day Out (8pm)

7.00 The Cotswolds & Beyond with Pam Ayres Pam's journey begins at Highclere Castle, one of Britain's most recognisable stately homes, now famous as being Downton Abbey (2/6) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out The comedian explores the Isle of Man, and discovers an island of beautiful landscapes, friendly people and exciting discoveries (4/12)

9.00 World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys A six-hour journey through Yorkshire to Northumbria and the Borders onboard the *Tornado*, enjoying some of the best food and luxury service that trains can offer (6/6) (r)

10.00 Dick Emery: The Naughty Bits & More Friends and colleagues of the funnyman Dick Emery share their stories, screen rare home movies, and reveal the man behind the mask. There's a look at his personal life, including his five marriages, and his love/hate relationship with comedy caricatures such as Mandy, whose "Ooh, you are awful," catchphrase was also used as the title for his starring feature in 1972 (r)

12.00 80s Greatest Songs: 1982 (r) **1.20am** Teleshopping **3.20** The Yorkshire Vet (r) **4.15** Great Artists. Titian (r) (SL) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News **5.35** Fireman Sam (r) (SL) **5.45** Thomas (r) (SL)

Friday 2 | Primetime digital guide



Goodfellas
Ray Liotta, Robert De Niro, Paul Sorvino and Joe Pesci star in the gangster drama
BBC3, 10pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max An insight into the day's top stories
6.30 Jeremy Kyle Political panel debates and interviews
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham
1.00pm Ian Collins Hard-hitting monologues and debates
4.00 Vanessa Feltz The host guides viewers through the big stories of the day
7.00 Plank of the Week
8.00 Friday Night with Nadine Nadine Dorries presents her take on the week with a mix of guests from the world of politics, culture and sport
9.00 The Royal Tea Opinions
9.30 What Just Happened? with Kevin O'Sullivan The host wraps up another week in the world of news
10.00 The Best of the Talk A panel of guests debate the topics everybody's talking about
11.00-12.00m't Friday Night with Nadine Discussion

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Athletics: Diamond League Florence The Golden Gala Pietro Mennea. Coverage of the third meeting of the season, held at Stadio Luigi Ridolfi in Florence, Italy
9.00 Eddie Hall: The Beast v the Mountain Behind-the-scenes access to Hall's preparations for a Dubai bout with fellow former World's Strongest Man Hafthor Bjornsson, who gained fame as The Mountain in *Game of Thrones*
10.00-12.20am FILM Goodfellas (18, 1990) An Irish-Italian boy is taken under the wing of a mobster and rises through the ranks of the Mafia. Martin Scorsese's crime drama starring Ray Liotta, Robert De Niro, Paul Sorvino and an Oscar-winning Joe Pesci

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Top of the Pops Jarvis Cocker presents music by INXS, Elastica, Tom Jones and Take That
7.30 Top of the Pops Music by Snap, China Black, Green Day and East 17 from 1994
8.00 Top of the Pops Cashflow, Simply Red, Pet Shop Boys
8.30 Top of the Pops With Elkie Brooks and the Muppets
9.00 In Concert: Gordon Lightfoot A studio performance by the late Canadian singer-songwriter. **See Viewing Guide**
10.05 Sounds of the Sixties: The Folk Revival Folk performances by artists including Pete Seeger, Tim Buckley, Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen (4/12)
10.35-12.10am FILM Once Were Brothers: Robbie Robertson and the Band (12, 2019) The story of the Canadian guitarist and his group

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm The Dog House Nervous labrador Loki arrives at the centre (6/8)
7.55 Grand Designs A couple begin an ambitious project to transform a small, damp bungalow in Cornwall into a cutting-edge family home with an extra floor and reinforced walls, all for just £80,000
9.00 I Killed My Husband Anna is increasingly overwhelmed by flashbacks and Lucas wants her to see the truth about Manuel. Caldera is worried she might be getting sidelined in the case. In French (3/6)
10.05 24 Hours in A&E Cameras focus on people who have faced challenges and transformed their lives (6/8)
11.05-12.10am 24 Hours in A&E Cameras follow a 56-year-old who fell from a ladder at work (R)

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm True Blood Eric decides to takes matters into his own hands to thwart Burrell's anti-vampire initiatives. Meanwhile, a long-lost relative reveals himself to Jason and Sookie (2/10) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Stannis and Davos arrive in Braavos for their meeting with the Iron Bank, while Tyrion's trial begins in the throne room and he is stunned by the identity of one of the witnesses (6/10) (R)
9.00 Souls A stranger wants to meet Jacob, Allie is involved in an accident, and Linn discovers what is going on in the rooms of the cult. In German (5/8) (R)
10.00 White House Plumbers Watergate drama starring Woody Harrelson (1/5) (R)
11.05-12.10am Yellowjackets Shauna dabbles in some cyber stalking (8/10) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

7.00pm Ghislaine Maxwell: Epstein's Shadow The complicated and mysterious life of the former socialite and her relationship with sex offender Jeffery Epstein (3/3) (R)
8.00 The Essex Murders Documentary about the killing of three notorious criminals (3/3) (R)
9.00 David Fuller: Monster in the Morgue Documentary about the case of David Fuller, a murderer who also sexually abused the bodies of more than 100 women and girls in a hospital mortuary (1/2) (R)
10.00 The Man Who Played with Fire Jan Stocklassa uncovers a surprising motive for Olof Palme's murder (3/4) (R)
11.00-1.30am FILM Love to Love You, Donna Summer (12, 2023) Profile of the singer

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Superstore Amy and Jonah experience the high-life at a management conference
7.30 Superstore Amy decides she wants to be a manager
8.00 Bob's Burgers Bob gets into trouble with his accountant
8.30 Bob's Burgers Linda finds a potato that resembles her late grandfather
9.00 FILM Fast & Furious 8 (12, 2017) Action adventure starring Vin Diesel and Charlize Theron
11.40-12.10am Family Guy

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.55pm Heartbeat Craddock is smitten by a newcomer's charms
8.00 Vera The detective investigates a suspicious death in an army barracks that was designed to look like suicide
10.00 Scott & Bailey Janet interviews serial killer Geoff Hastings, who has vowed to reveal the full extent of his crimes, while Rachel and the rest of the team investigate a taxi driver's murder
11.00-12.05am Scott & Bailey Andy accuses Janet of leading him on

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

7.00pm BattleBots Brutus, Warhawk and End Game fight for a guaranteed spot
8.00 The 1% Club Quiz hosted by Lee Mack in which the questions are all about logic and common sense (6/8)
9.00 Isle of Man TT: Qualifying Highlights A round-up of the qualifying sessions
10.00 All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite Hard-hitting action
12.00-1.00am Isle of Man TT: Qualifying Highlights

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Rayne helps Juliet tackle her bucket list
7.30 The Big Bang Theory
8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht Chris gets injured handling a heavy water toy
9.00 FILM Crocodile Dundee II (PG, 1988) Comedy adventure sequel starring Paul Hogan
11.10 Impractical Jokers Joe, Sal, Murr and Q try to get shoppers to repeat an odd catchphrase
11.40-12.10am Impractical Jokers The guys pose as janitors

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games Double bill of the quiz
8.20 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing The duo fish for wild brown trout in Wales's River Usk
9.00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Visiting the wild lakes of Essex in search of carp
9.40 Meet the Richardsons at Christmas Lucy wants a big tree
10.20 Meet the Richardsons at Christmas More celebs turn up
11.00 QI XL Extended edition
12.00-12.40am Mock the Week

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Tom rides Compo's old bicycle
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine Billy is burdened by his brother-in-law
8.00 Father Brown Mallory and Father Brown go missing
9.00 Sister Boniface Mysteries Crime drama. Sparks fly when Sam and Ruth go undercover at a spiritual retreat for couples only
10.00 New Tricks The team looks into the death of a terrorist
11.20-1.55am Silent Witness A mummified corpse is found

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Bangers and Cash A 1970 Excalibur Roadstar, once owned by Roy Orbison, turns up
8.00 The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard Marketing manager Laura plans a stunt (2/3)
9.00 Great American Railroad Journeys Featuring a journey from New York City to Albany (3/15)
10.00 Bangers and Cash Two cars with a 35-year age difference (10/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys (7/15)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.50pm Grand Tours of Scotland A winter holiday destination (6/6)
7.30 Spitfire Paddy An ace fighter pilot who became the youngest wing commander in RAF history
8.35 Inside Japan's War American bombing pounds the Japanese home islands (4/4)
9.45 No Roses on a Sailor's Grave The attempt to locate a ship sunk during the Second World War
10.55 Spitfire Paddy Documentary
12.00-1.15am No Roses on a Sailor's Grave Documentary

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Discovering: John Lennon A collection of TV interviews paint a portrait of the Beatle, singer-songwriter and political activist
8.00 Guy Garvey: From the Vaults Music from 1978, with Ian Dury and the Boomtown Rats performing on *Revolver*, and live appearances from the Jam and Kate Bush
9.00-12.15am Santana: Hymns for Peace: Live at Montreux 2004 Carlos Santana and his band are joined by guests to perform a concert of songs about peace

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Forged in Fire The four remaining smiths are whittled down to two in an epic battle
8.00 Salvage Kings The team finds some mint vintage boot-making salvage that could be perfect
9.00 Secret Wars Uncovered Assessing Cuba's residual part in Venezuela's future
10.00 Guns That Changed the Game Machine guns (2/3)
11.00 The Proof Is Out There
12.00-1.00am Secret Societies: In the Shadows A look at Le Cercle

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stop, Search, Seize
8.00 A League of Their Own: European Road Trip Highlights from Andrew Flintoff and Jamie Redknapp's adventures (6/6)
9.00 Poker Face Charlie takes a job at a Texas barbecue joint. **See Viewing Guide** (3/10)
10.10 Poker Face Charlie goes on tour with a heavy metal band, and suspects foul play when one musician winds up dead. With guest star Chloe Sevigny (4/10)
11.20-12.20am Bel-Air (5/10)

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation The case of a plane that crashed during a top-secret mission in 1961
8.00 The Challenger Disaster: Lost Tapes The events leading up to the loss of the space shuttle
9.00 UFOs: Investigating the Unknown In 2015, Navy pilots report encounters with UFOs (5/5)
10.00 Pride from Above LGBTQ+ celebrations seen from the air
11.00 Air Crash Investigation
12.00-1.00am Banged Up Abroad True travelling nightmares (10/10)

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Bitchin' Rides
8.00 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail
9.00 Viagra: The Little Blue Pill That Changed the World Viagra is released to a wave of hysteria, headlines and huge sales
10.00 How the Universe Works
11.00 Naked and Afraid XL
12.00-1.00am Combat Dealers

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Wellington Paranormal Spoof police documentary (2/7)
7.30 The Office (US) Comedy
8.00 American Auto (13/13)
8.30 The Office (US) Comedy
9.00 Curb Your Enthusiasm (3&4&5/10) Comedy triple bill
10.45-11.45pm The Reluctant Landlord Double bill

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends Double bill
8.00 Friends Ross gets a new flat
8.30 Friends Ross makes a bad impression on his new neighbours
9.00 FILM Lethal Weapon (15, 1987) Action thriller starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover
11.15 Reno 911! Spoof police show
11.45-12.15am Reno 911!

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Are You Being Served?
7.40 Dad's Army Double bill
9.00 Bottom Eddie and Richie mind their landlord's shop, but soon face a gang of looters
9.40 Bottom It's Richie's birthday
10.20 The Office Brent's ego gets a boost when he is headhunted
11.00-12.20am The Office

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Inside the Ambulance
8.00 999 Rescue Squad The team are called to attend a fatal crash
9.00 24 Hours in A&E A 26-year-old man arrives after an accident at work involving an electric saw
10.00 Gavin & Stacey Triple bill
12.00-1.00am Louis Theroux: Extreme Love: Autism

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Person of Interest
8.00 Father Brown (6/10)
9.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators (6/9)
10.00 Death in Paradise (2/9)
11.00 Person of Interest Drama
12.00-1.00am Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators A pampered dog runs away (1/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

10.15am Live Test Cricket: England v Ireland Coverage of day two of the four-day one-off Test from Lord's, London
6.30pm Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Gloucestershire v Surrey Coverage of the Southern Division match at Seat Unique Stadium in Bristol
10.00 Live PGA Tour Golf The Memorial Tournament. Further live coverage of day two from Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio
11.00-12.00m't Sky Sports News

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm Premier League Stories
8.00 Gary Neville's Soccerbox The presenter talks to Dimitar Berbatov
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox The presenter talks to former striker Alan Shearer
9.00 Drink It In: The Rise of Man City A look at the return to prominence of Manchester City, following the years of investment by the City Football Group that began in 2013
10.00 Premier League Icons
10.30-12.30am PL Retro



Billy Horschel defends his title at the Memorial Tournament (Sky Main Event, 10pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

10.15am Live Test Cricket: England v Ireland Coverage of day two of the four-day one-off Test from Lord's, London
6.30pm Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Gloucestershire v Surrey Coverage of the Southern Division match at Seat Unique Stadium in Bristol
10.00 Test Cricket Action from day two of England v Ireland
11.00 Talking Cricket
11.30 Test Cricket Bitesize
11.45-12.00m't Ashes Greats

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

10.30am-1.30pm Live AFL: Melbourne Demons v Carlton Blues (Bounce-up **10.50**)
2.30-4.30pm Live Hockey: India v Belgium (Push-back **2.40**)
5.00 Live Hockey: Great Britain v China (Push-back **5.10**)
7.00 Inside Serie A
7.30 Live: Serie A
9.45 Uefa Champions League Magazine
10.15 Premier League Reload
10.30 UFC
11.00-12.00m't Ultimate Fighter

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

6.01-2.30pm Live Badminton Coverage of the quarter-finals of the Thailand Open
6.00pm Live PSA Squash Coverage of the El Gouna International finals
8.30 MLB: Off The Bat
9.00 World Poker Tour Series
10.00 World Poker Tour Series
11.00 WWE NXT Highlights
12.00-3.30am Live MLB: New York Mets v Toronto Blue Jays (Start-time **12.10**). Coverage of the inter-league match from Citi Field

Friday 2

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Gunfight at the OK Corral (PG, 1957) Western starring Burt Lancaster **1.25pm The Tin Star (U, 1957)** Western with Henry Fonda **3.15 Oliver! (U, 1968)** Musical starring Ron Moody **6.10 Transformers (12, 2007)** Adventure with Shia LaBeouf **9.00 Ronin (15, 1998)** Action thriller with Robert De Niro **11.25 Snatch (18, 2000)** Comedy drama starring Jason Statham and Brad Pitt **1.30-3.25am Blindspotting (15, 2018)** A man begins to re-evaluate his relationship with his volatile best friend. Crime drama starring Daveed Diggs. **See Film Choice**

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Ensign O'Toole **6.30 The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan (U, 1953)** Biopic starring Robert Morley **8.35 Fantastic Voyage (U, 1966)** Adventure with Raquel Welch and Stephen Boyd **10.35 Glimpses** **10.55 Isn't Life Wonderful! (U, 1953)** Comedy with Donald Wolfit and Eileen Herlie **12.35pm The Mark of Zorro (U, 1940)** Adventure with Basil Rathbone and Tyrone Power **2.30 Crown Court** **3.00 Falstaff: Chimes At Midnight (U, 1965)** Drama starring Orson Welles **5.20 BEA: Number One in Europe** Promotional film. **6.00 Time to Remember** **6.30 The Steel Bayonet (PG, 1957)** Drama with John Paul **8.15 Look at Life** **8.30 Dial 999** **9.00 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro** **9.05 The Crucible (12, 1996)** Drama with Daniel Day-Lewis **11.35 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro** **11.40-1.25am Shatter (18, 1974)** Thriller starring Stuart Whitman and Peter Cushing

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Accusations and Lies (PG, 2019) Thriller starring AnnaLynne McCord **10.50 GREAT! Movie News** **11.00 A Woman's Nightmare (2018)** Thriller starring Gina Holden and Johnny Jay Lee **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News** **1.00 The Twin (PG, 2017)** Thriller with Brigid Brannagh **2.50 GREAT! Movie News** **3.00 The Honeymoon Murder: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2021)** Mystery starring Candace Cameron Bure **4.50 GREAT! Movie News** **5.00 Murder 101: Locked Room Mystery (PG, 2008)** Whodunit with Dick Van Dyke **6.50 GREAT! Movie News**



Daniel Day-Lewis stars (Talking Pictures TV, 9.05pm)

7.00 Abducted Love (PG, 2016) Thriller starring Daphne Zuniga and Nicole Munoz **8.50 GREAT! Movie News** **9.00 Zombieland (15, 2009)** Comedy horror starring Woody Harrelson **10.50-1.40am Black Hawk Down (15, 2001)** Fact-based drama starring Josh Hartnett

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.00am Off Set **6.25 The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (PG, 1948)** Western with Humphrey Bogart and Walter Huston **9.00 A Thunder of Drums (PG, 1961)** Western drama starring Richard Boone **11.00 Operation: Daybreak (15, 1975)** Second World War drama starring Timothy Bottoms and Martin Shaw **1.30pm Sierra Passage (PG, 1950)** Western starring Wayne Morris and Lola Albright **3.15 Sherlock Holmes in Dressed to Kill (U, 1945)** Mystery with Basil Rathbone **4.50 The Man Behind the Gun (U, 1953)** Western drama starring Randolph Scott **6.35 Law of the Panhandle (PG, 1950)** Western starring Johnny Mack Brown **7.50 Canyon Raiders (PG, 1951)** Western starring Whip Wilson and Fuzzy Knight **9.00 Magnum Force (18, 1973)** Action thriller sequel starring Clint Eastwood **11.35-1.20am Hatfields and McCoys: Bad Blood (12, 2012)** Western with Christian Slater

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.10pm The Portable Door (PG, 2023) Fantasy adventure starring Christoph Waltz **2.20 Alone Together (15, 2022)** Drama starring Katie Holmes and Jim Sturgess **4.15 Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG, 2022)** Musical comedy starring Javier Bardem **6.20 Summering (12, 2022)** Drama starring Lia Barnett **8.00 Bros (15, 2022)** Comedy romance starring Billy Eichner **10.05-12.00am Smile (18, 2022)** Premiere. Horror starring Sosie Bacon

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Chloe Tilley and Calum Macdonald with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Patrick Maguire **1.00pm** Ruth Davidson **4.00** Cathy Newman with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Ed Vaizey **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Gaby Roslin Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **3.30** Scott Mills' Wonder Years **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Michelle Visage **8.30** Michelle Visage's Handbag Hits **9.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony **11.00** The Rock Show with Johnnie Walker **12.00** Romesh Ranganathan: For the Love of Hip-Hop **1.00am** Let's Do the Time Warp Again: The Rocky Horror Story **2.00** First and Last: Noel Gallagher (r) **2.30** First and Last: Sam Smith (r) **3.00** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin (r) **4.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast **9.00 Essential Classics** **12.00 Composer of the Week: Domenico Scarlatti** The composer's meeting with a world-famous opera singer **1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** The Amatis Trio perform at the Hay Festival. Suk (*Elegie*) and Schubert (Piano Trio No 2 in E flat) **2.00 Afternoon Concert** Vivaldi (Concerto in D minor RV.566 for seven instruments and orchestra); Weinberg (Suite for orchestra); Schubert (String Quartet No 13 in A minor, Op 29, D. 804); Strauss (*Also sprach Zarathustra*, Op 30); JS Bach (*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*); Mozart (Divertimento in B flat, K. 137) and Sibelius (*Valse Triste*) **4.30 The Listening Service** Exploring Ravel's *Bolero* (r) **5.00 In Tune** Music news **7.00 Classical Mixtape** **7.30 Radio 3 in Concert** The Ulster Orchestra, conducted by music director Daniele Rustioni, perform their season finale. Berlioz (*Harold in Italy*); Elgar (*In the South*) and Respighi (*Pines of Rome*) **10.00 The Verb** **10.45 The Essay: Charles Aznavour in Five Songs** Nare Mkrtchyan examines the history of *They Fell* **11.00 Late Junction** **1.00am Composed with Devonté Hynes** **2.00 Piano Flow with Gabriels** **3.00 Through the Night**

Today's pick

The Frost Tapes
Radio 4 Extra, 8pm
All week Radio 4 Extra has been marking (albeit a month later than the precise date) the 60th anniversary of the Beatles' first official chart No1, *From Me to You* in April 1963. It was their third single release and would spend seven weeks at the top spot. The band would go on to have 16 more UK No1 singles, and change popular culture for ever. Tonight there is a chance to hear David Frost's gently revelatory interviews



with the band over the years, some of which were thought to have been lost until fairly recently. It's presented by the interviewer's son, the broadcaster Wilfred Frost.
Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing **5.43 Prayer for the Day** **5.45 Farming Today** **5.58 Tweet of the Day** (r) **6.00 Today** **9.00 Desert Island Discs** (r) **9.45 Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History** (5/5) **9.45 (LW) Daily Service** **10.00 Woman's Hour** **10.45-7.00 (LW) Test Match Special: England v Ireland** Commentary on day two of the four-day Test at Lord's **11.00 Fit for Work** New series. Attempts to stop the disabled "languishing" on benefits **11.30 Ed Reardon's Week** (r) **12.01pm (LW) Shipping** **12.04 Archive on 4: Marvel v DC Comics — Contest of the Champions** (r) **1.00 The World at One** **1.45 Oliver Burkeman's Inconvenient Truth** **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 Drama: The Attendant** (r) **2.45 Welcome to the Neighbourhood with Jayde Adams** Exploring the world of online community forums. **3.00 Gardeners' Question Time** Listeners' queries **3.45 Short Works** **4.00 Last Word** **4.30 More or Less** (r) **5.00 PM** **5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast** **6.00 Six O'Clock News** **6.30 The News Quiz** **7.00 The Archers** There's a showdown at Home Farm **7.15 Screenshot** Insights (9/9) **8.00 Any Questions?** Debate from the Corn Exchange in Wallingford, Oxfordshire **8.50 A Point of View** **9.00 Pop Star Philosophy** (r) **10.00 The World Tonight** **10.45 Book at Bedtime: The House of Doors** (5/10) **11.00 Americast** **11.30 The Spark** **12.00 News and Weather** **12.30am Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History** (5/5) (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast** **1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Chiles on Friday **1.00pm** Footballers' Football Podcast **1.30** Kammy & Ben's Proper Football Podcast **2.00** Elis James and John Robins **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** Friday Football Social **9.00** 5 Live Cricket **9.30** 5 Live Formula 1 **10.00** Stephen Nolan **1.00am** Laura McGhie

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive **7.00** GameDay Countdown **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time with Martin Kelner

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** Jeremy Kyle **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Plank of the Week **8.00** Friday Night with Nadine **9.00** What Just Happened? **9.30** The Royal Tea **10.00** The Best of the Talk **11.00** Andre Walker **1.00am** Martin Kelner

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am Steptoe and Son **8.30** Flying the Flag **9.00** Act Your Age **9.30** Bleak Expectations **10.00** The Believers **11.00** The Events at Black Tor **11.30** A Charles Paris Mystery: A Reconstructed Corpse **12.00** One Two Three Four: The Beatles in Time **12.15pm** The Citadel **12.30** Dr Phil's Bedside Manner **1.00** Steptoe and Son **1.30** Flying the Flag **2.00** Act Your Age **2.30** Bleak Expectations **3.00** The Believers **4.00** The Events at Black Tor **4.30** A Charles Paris Mystery: A Reconstructed Corpse **5.00** One Two Three Four: The Beatles in Time **5.15** The Citadel **5.30** Dr Phil's Bedside Manner **6.00** Steptoe and Son **6.30** Flying the Flag **7.00** Act Your Age **7.30** Bleak Expectations. By Mark Evans **8.00** The Frost Tapes. Interviews featuring Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Harrison. **See Choice** **8.30** Frankly Speaking **9.00** The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry **9.30** Across the Narrow Water **10.00** Mark Steel's in Town **10.30** DMs Are Open **11.00** Tim Key's Late Night Poetry Programme **11.15** Knocker **11.30** Les Kelly's Britain

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** Science in Action **10.00** News **10.06** The Real Story **11.00** Newsroom **11.30** Heart and Soul **12.00** News **12.06pm** Fifth Floor **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Science in Action **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** The Fifth Floor **6.50** Witness History **7.00** Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** BBC OS Conversations **8.30** CrowdScience **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** Heart and Soul **11.00** Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The Real Story **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Stumped **3.00** News **3.06** Fifth Floor **3.50** Witness History **4.00** News **4.06** The Real Story

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Gemma Cairney **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Huw Stephens **7.00** The People's Party **9.00** Tom Ravenscroft **11.00** The Ravers Hour **12.00** Rebels Forever **1.00am** Emo Forever

Virgin Radio
Digital only

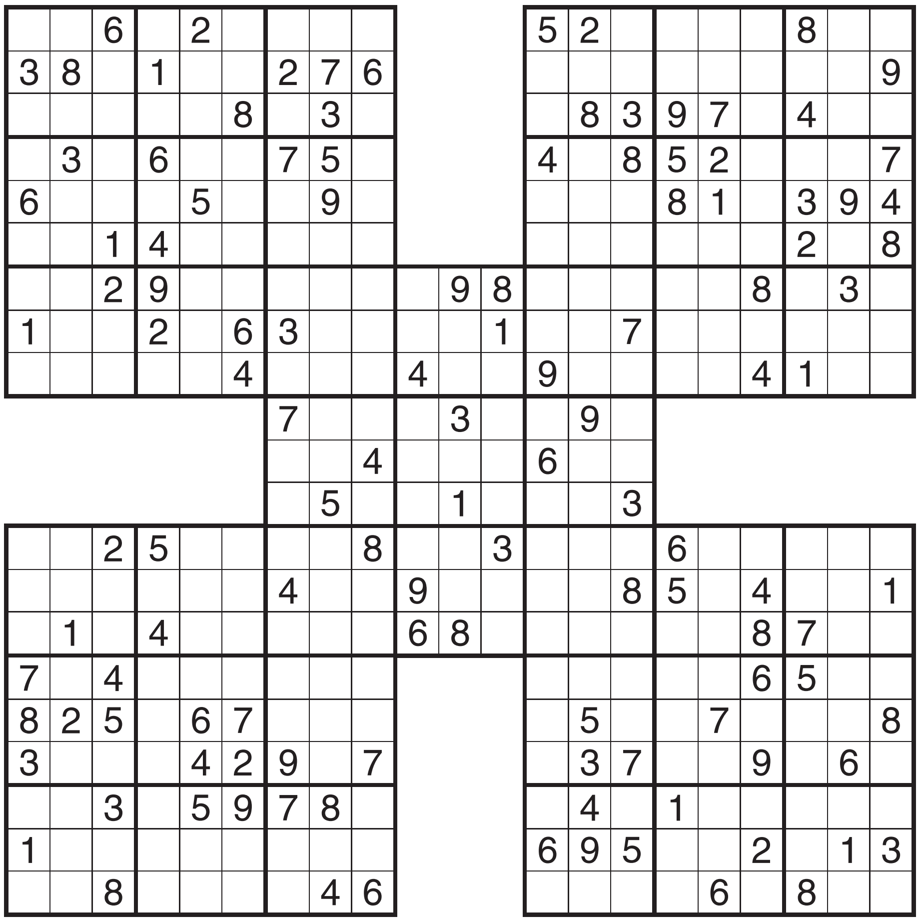
6.30am Chris Evans **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Ben Jones **10.00** Rich Williams **1.00am** Olivia Jones

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics **10.00** Calm Classics. With Ritula Shah **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00** Sam Pittis

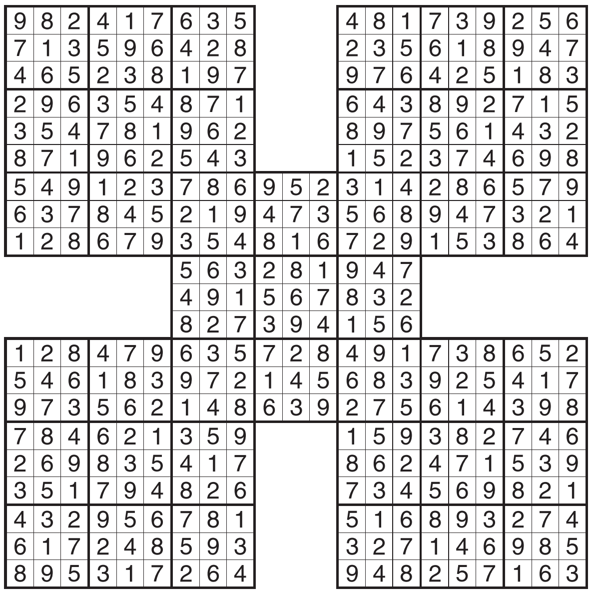
MindGames

Samurai Sudoku No 873 — Hard



© PUZZLER MEDIA

Solution to last week's Samurai Sudoku



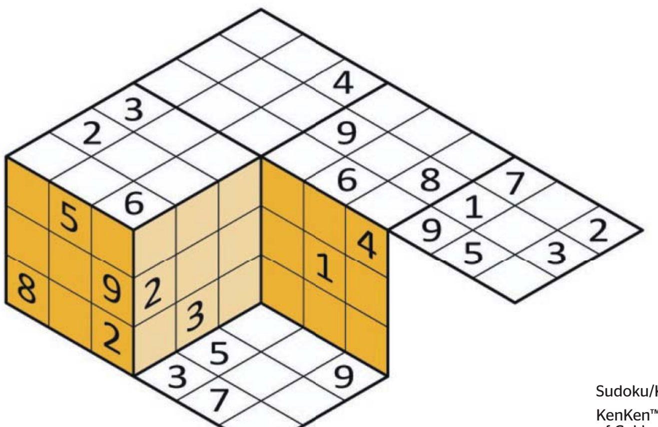
Our five-grid Sudoku will test your powers of logic and deduction.

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length. The interlocking nature of the grid gives you more clues — and more complexity.

Remember — don't try to solve each Sudoku grid in turn; the puzzle has to be tackled as a whole.

Stuck? Call 0901 293 6263 to receive four clues for today's Samurai Sudoku. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm)

Tredoku No 1787 — Medium



Tredoku is similar to Sudoku: the digits 1 to 9 must appear once only in each 3x3 box and in each line of nine consecutive cells. However, since the puzzle is three-dimensional, the lines may be straight or bent around angles. Follow each line's direction in search of clues.

Sudoku/Killer © Puzzler Media
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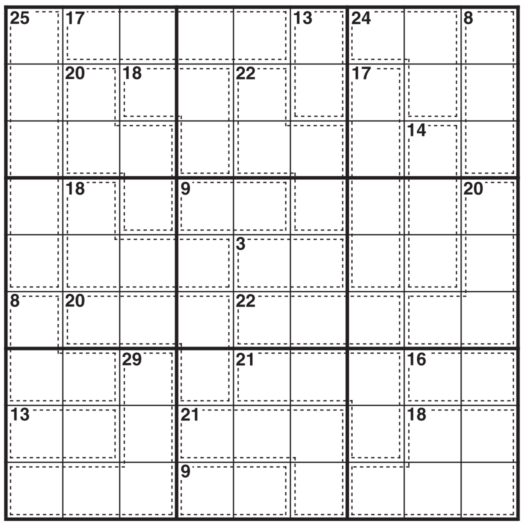
Sudoku No 14,072 — Fiendish

		6				4		
	4		7			3		
2						5	7	8
		8	6					
	2							
7	1	4			5		8	
		9	4		1			5
			2	6			4	
			3			1		

How to solve Sudoku. Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

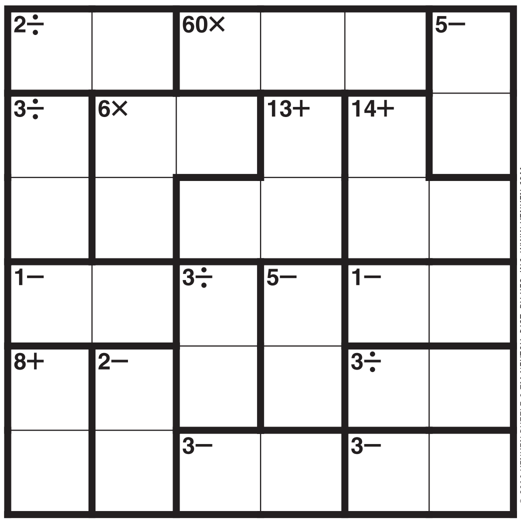
Stuck on KenKen, Killer or Sudoku?
Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge.
SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Killer No 8896 — Deadly



Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.
For solutions to KenKen, Sudoku & Killer see Times2 on Monday

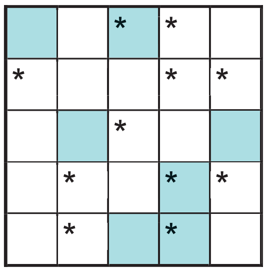
KenKen No 5904 — Medium



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All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Square Routes® No 220 — Easy
Ian Simpson & Richard Heald



ESCALIER
VANTAGE
EUREKA
RUPEE
ELEPHANT
SABBATH
TALEA

Put one letter in each cell so that each word on the right can be spelt out by moving from cell to cell without using diagonal moves. You can use a cell more than once in a word (including backtracking into a cell you've just used), but double letters (eg, the LL in ALL) must use two adjacent cells. The words start in the coloured cells and the vowels are shown by asterisks.

Solution on Monday

Answers
Friday's solutions

KenKen No 5903

45× 3	40× 5	2	4	1	2− 6
1	3	5	3÷ 2	6	4
15+ 6	7+ 2	1− 4	3	4− 5	1
5	4	1	90× 6	7+ 2	3
4	72× 1	6	5	1− 3	2
2	6	3	1	4	5 5

Sudoku No 14,069

6	4	9	1	5	3	8	7	2
3	1	2	6	8	7	9	5	4
7	5	8	9	4	2	3	6	1
8	6	1	3	2	4	5	9	7
5	7	4	8	6	9	1	2	3
2	9	3	7	1	5	6	4	8
1	8	5	4	7	6	2	3	9
4	3	6	2	9	8	7	1	5
9	2	7	5	3	1	4	8	6

Sudoku No 14,070

3	2	6	4	5	7	9	8	1
8	7	1	9	6	2	5	3	4
5	4	9	8	1	3	2	7	6
9	8	5	3	2	1	4	6	7
1	3	7	6	4	9	8	2	5
4	6	2	7	8	5	3	1	9
6	9	4	2	7	8	1	5	3
2	5	3	1	9	6	7	4	8
7	1	8	5	3	4	6	9	2

Sudoku No 14,071

7	3	8	4	2	6	5	9	1
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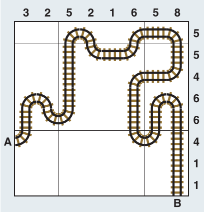
Killer No 8894

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9	1	4	6	8	7	5	2	3
2	5	8	4	3	9	7	6	1
3	7	6	2	5	1	9	8	4
6	2	9	3	7	8	1	4	5
7	4	1	9	2	5	6	3	8
8	3	5	1	4	6	2	9	7

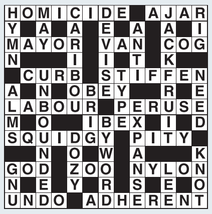
Killer No 8895

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2	6	5	9	3	8	1	4	7
6	8	7	5	9	4	2	3	1
5	1	9	6	2	3	8	7	4
3	2	4	7	8	1	5	9	6
9	5	1	2	6	7	4	8	3
7	3	6	8	4	5	9	1	2
8	4	2	3	1	9	7	6	5

Train Tracks No 1946



Codeword No 4911





The Listener 4762 Case-sensitive by Aedites

The thematic answers were countries, replaced by their capital cities. In grid order, they were Zambia, Paraguay, Burkina Faso, Georgia, Botswana, Turkey, Armenia, Mauritania, Angola, Yemen, New Zealand, Canada, Ghana and Togo. These were 14 of the 25 possible country/capital pairs with matching lengths.

More details at listenercrossword.com.

The winners are E Hodgson of Marlow, Buckinghamshire; Helen Harrison of Waddington, Lincolnshire; Dave Williams of Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Solve Cryptic Quintagram every weekday online
Go to thetimes.co.uk

Cryptic Quintagram®

Solve all five cryptic clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Speaker's rung and ordered (4)

_ _ _ _

2 About to return in a form of transport that you can count on! (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

3 Get married after epic love story initially goes wrong (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Agreement to contain something sentimental and worthless (2-4)

_ _ _ _ _ _

5 Make some fiction popular, say, as royal body might? (3,2,5)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	B	C	C	D	D
E	E	E	G	I	I	I	L
L	L	N	N	O	O	O	O
P	S	S	S	T	T	T	U

Answers below

Word Watch
David Parfitt

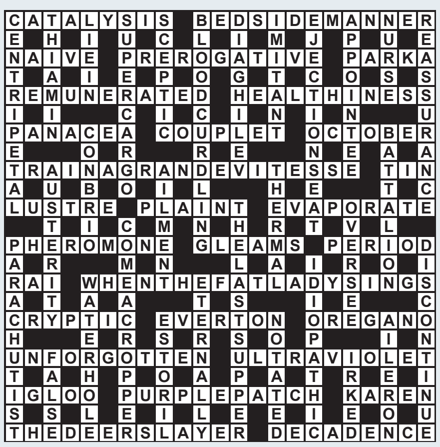
Stank
a. A draining board
b. A deposit of tin ore
c. The shin

Postliminary
a. Subsequent
b. A messenger
c. Unconscious

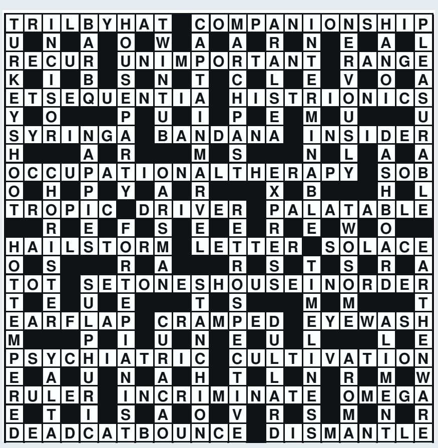
Vandyke
a. To zigzag
b. To mispronounce
c. To be cavalier

Flawn
a. A pancake
b. A fine linen fabric
c. To flatter

Answers below

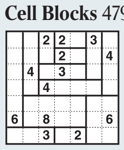


Solution to Cryptic Jumbo 1615
The winner is James Kelly of Clarkston, Glasgow

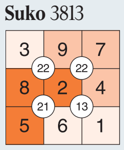


Solution to times2 Jumbo 1615
The winner is Philip Schnepp of Exeter, Devon

Cell Blocks 4794



Suko 3813



Mindset
1. Referendum. Religious education = RE; Iron symbol = FE; Second note = RE; North Dakota = ND; Expresses hesitation = UM.

2. THREE
HUNDR
EDAND
TWENT
YFOUR

3. Blackpool and Barrow are the only FA clubs whose names contain none of the letters of Mindset.

Word Watch:
Stank (a) A draining board (*Collins*).
Postliminary (a) Subsequent (*Chambers*).
Vandyke (a) To zigzag (*OED*).
Flawn (a) A pancake (*Chambers*).

Polygon
acer, acerb, acre, baccy, bare, barf, bear, brace, brae, bray, caber, cafe, carb, care, cery, **cybercafe**, eyra, face, facer, faery, farce, farcy, fare, fayre, fear, frae, fray, race, racy, reface, yare, year.

Scrabble MAZIEST (A1a).

Literary quiz
1 *The Rachel Papers.*
2 *Money.*
3 *London Fields.*
4 *The Zone of Interest.*

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Told 2 Abacus 3 Splice
4 No-good 5 Lie in state.

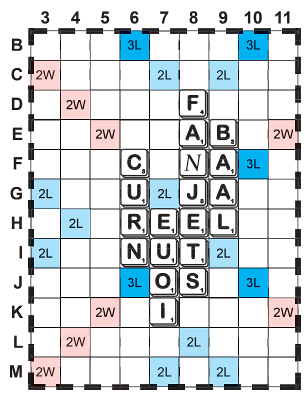
Scrabble® Paul Gallen

The two-letter words are widely regarded as being fundamental to playing Scrabble well, primarily owing to their ability to facilitate parallel plays and bonus words on the board. Furthermore, these words can also be used to gain a tactical advantage in the appropriate position.

Here are two positions from one of Nigel Richards's games at the 2023 Word Wizard Challenge held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where the five-time world champion deployed two-letter words in order to cause problems for his opponent, Marlon Prudencio.

Richards held the following rack, facing the board extract below, while leading 103-43.

A E E G I I I



With a decent lead, Richards was happy to play a move from this terrible rack: GI (F10d) for 24 points. Despite the horrendous leave of AEEII, this move left his opponent with limited opportunities to score well in response — for example, neither EUOI (H7d) nor JAI (G8a) can be hooked with an S.

A few turns later, Prudencio played the invalid LERNEAN, which Richards successfully challenged. With full knowledge of his opponent's rack, Richards sought to maximise the potential of the Z on his own rack and played the two-letter word ED (C6a), keeping AEITZ. Prudencio felt obliged to block the area and played RENAL (B2a) in response, as shown below. Richards's plan involving the two-letter play of ED worked to perfection as he now held the following rack, facing the main board diagram below.

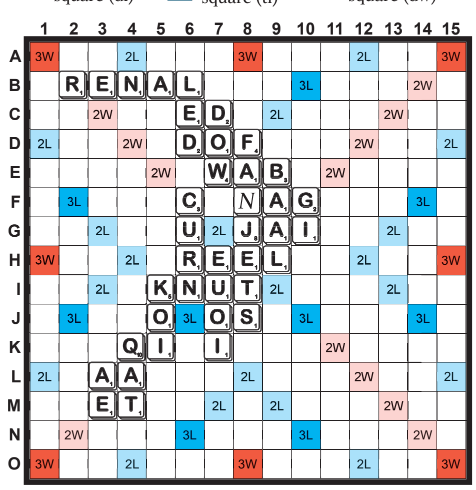
A E I M S T Z

Can you find Richards's move, scoring 130 points, that he played en route to winning the game 505-292?

Definitions
FANJETS pl of FANJET, a type of jet engine
JAI an Indian exclamation meaning "victory (to)"

Collins Official Scrabble Words is the word authority used.
Word positions use the grid reference plus (a)cross or (d)own.

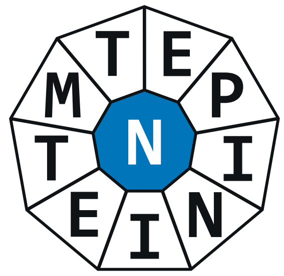
2L double letter square (dl) · 3L triple letter square (tl) · 2W double word square (dw) · 3W triple word square (tw)



Letter values
1 point: A E I O U L N R S T
2 points: D G
3 points: B C M P
4 points: F H V W Y
K = 5
J X = 8
Q Z = 10

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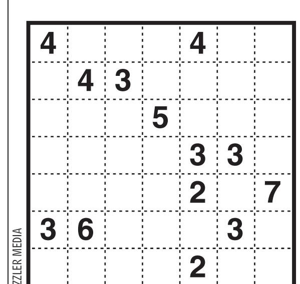
Polygon Roger Phillips



Using the given letters no more than once, make as many words as possible of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives are disallowed.
How you rate: 14 words average; 19, good; 27, very good; 36, excellent.

Answers to Friday's Polygon are to the left. Today's answers are printed in MindGames on Monday

Cell Blocks 4795



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.
Yesterday's solution, left

Chess David Howell

An inauspicious start

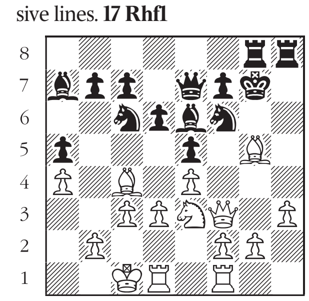
Ding Liren's tenure as classical world champion began in rocky fashion.

Having won the world title in Kazakhstan at the end of April, Ding travelled straight to Romania to take part in a supertournament featuring many of the world's elite. The result was disastrous: eighth place out of ten players. Only a final round victory ensured the 30-year-old narrowly avoided becoming the first reigning champion to finish last in a tournament. Ding's vanquished challenger, Ian Nepomniachtchi, also struggled and ended the event in ninth.

Fabiano Caruana won the Superbet Chess Classic with his trademark brand of precise and professional chess. It was Anish Giri, however, who caught the eye with the best individual game of the tournament.

White: Anish Giri
Black: Ding Liren
Superbet Chess Classic, Bucharest 2023
Italian Game

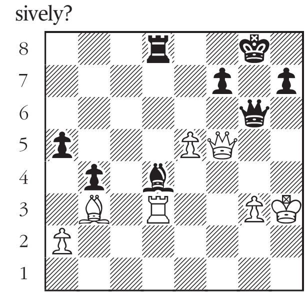
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 A logical choice against this specific opponent. I had expected to see the Italian Game deployed as a weapon against Ding at the recent world championship match. For years he has countered in a fixed way, always choosing the same set-up for Black. Meanwhile Giri is one of the hardest working players on the circuit and comes armed with a deep opening idea. **3...Nf6 4 d3 Bc5 5 Bg5** This pin will last for another 16 moves. **5...h6 6 Bh4 d6** More pragmatic players — myself included — prefer the solid 6...Be7, breaking the pin in a non-committal manner. **7 c3 a5 8 Nbd2 Ba7 9 a4 0-0 10 h3** A flexible waiting move. It is instructive that Giri refrains from castling his king. **10...g5?** Predictable, but a mistake! This move is a regular part of Ding's repertoire against the Italian game. Credit must go to Giri for finding one of the rare positions in which Black can be directly punished for creating kingside weaknesses. 10...Be6 was advisable, keeping the tension. **11 Nxg5!** A thematic sacrifice. There is no knockout blow; White's compensation will be long-term. **11...hxg5 12 Bxg5 Kg7 13 Qf3 Be6 14 Nf1 Rh8 15 Ne3 Qe7** Black struggles to ease the pressure. 15...Bxe3 backfires on the f-file, for example: 16 fxe3 Bxc4 17 0-0! with a devastating attack. **16 0-0-0** The sophisticated 16 Rf1! was a more accurate order. **16...Rag8** Too slow. Ding misses a chance to save the game: 16...Bxe3+ 17 fxe3 Nb8! An important manoeuvre: 18 Rhf1 Nbd7 and White cannot break Black's defensive lines. **17 Rhf1**



A position worthy of a diagram. Black is utterly incapacitated. There is no productive plan; Ding can only wait for Giri to initiate action. **17...Nb8 18 d4** 18 Nf5+ is another approach: 18...Bxf5 19 Qxf5 Nbd7 20 Rdel Kf8 21 h4. Black still cannot break free of the bind. The powerful 22 f4 will likely arrive next. **18...exd4 19 cxd4 Nbd7 20 e5** Not 20 d5? Ne5. **20...dxe5 21 d5 Qb4** Ding's queen finally escapes the diagonal. **22 Qe2 Bxh3** Objectively, Black's only hope was 22...Bxe3+ 23 fxe3 Bg4! 24 Bxf6+ (24 hxg4 Ne4 gives counterplay) 24...Nxf6 25 hxg4 Rh4. Though this is extremely difficult to evaluate for a human. **23 gxh3 Kf8 24 h4 Bd4 25 Rxd4!** Eliminating the glue that holds the black position together. **25...exd4 26 Nf5** "A knight on f5 will thrive" as the rhyme goes. White's attack is too strong. **26...Rxg5 27 hxg5 Ne5 28 Bb5 Nfg4 29 Kbl!** Classy play. White can afford the luxury of safeguarding the king before launching his own offensive. **29...Kg8 30 Nh6+ Nxh6 31 Qxe5 Ng4 32 Qxc7 Kg7 33 g6** Energetic till the end. Lines are blown open around the black king. **30...Rf8** Pins have been the theme of the game: 33...Kxg6 34 Rgl. **34 gxf7 d3 35 Rgl Rxf7 36 Qc3+ Black resigns** After 36...Qxc3 37 Rxg4+ Kf8 38 bxc3 White is left with an extra piece.

Winning Move

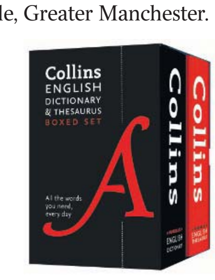
White to play. Moussard-Shimanov, chess.com 2023. Middlegames with opposite-coloured bishops tend to favour the side on the attack. How can White strike decisively?



The first correct entry drawn on Thursday will receive a copy of *Collins English Dictionary and Thesaurus.* The two runners-up will receive a book prize. Answers on a postcard to: The Times Winning Move, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ, or email to: winningmove@thetimes.co.uk. Open to 18+, UK and ROI residents only. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's puzzle: 1...Nh2! wins: **2 Kxh2** (otherwise 1...Nxf3+) **2...Bg4+ 3 Kgl Bxf3.** 4...Qh1 mate is an unstoppable threat.

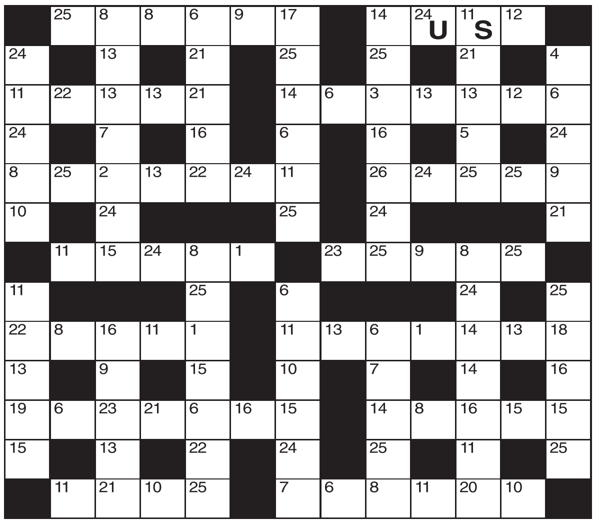
The winner is Mike Davies of Hale, Greater Manchester.



MindGames

The Times Crossword, Latin Crossword, Saturday Quiz and Suko are in the back of the main paper

Codeword No 4912



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R ~~S~~ T ~~U~~ V W X Y Z

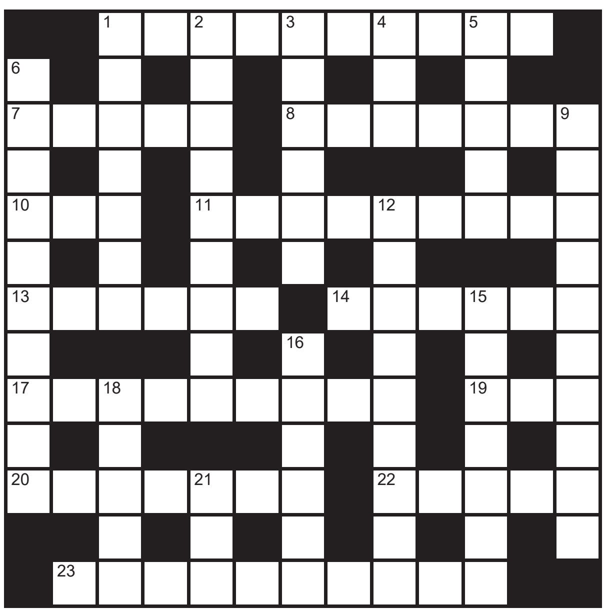
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11 S	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24 U	25	26

© PUZZLER MEDIA

Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution on page 52*

Stuck on Codeword? To receive four random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

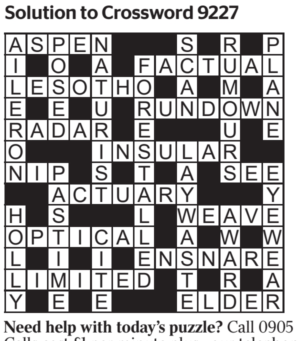
times2 Crossword No 9228



Across
1 Of even probability (5-5)
7 Layabout (5)
8 Requiring (7)
10 Monopolise (3)
11 Length of a cricket pitch in yards (6-3)
13 Speak in a negative manner (6)
14 Religious building (6)
17 Fondly remembered era (6,3)
19 Chinese philosophical principle (3)
20 Agricultural vehicle (7)
22 Faint-hearted (5)
23 Spa town in southwest Germany (5-5)

Down
1 Scapegoat, stooge (4,3)
2 Of exceptional standard or quality (5-4)
3 Over there (6)
4 Water in solid form (3)
5 Contaminate (5)
6 Bedtime farewell (5-5)
9 Person who is insufferably virtuous (5-5)
12 Experiencing great frustration or pain (9)
15 Low padded seat without a back or arms (7)
16 Capital city of Croatia (6)
18 Mammal related to the alpaca (5)
21 Small peg used in golf (3)

Solution to Crossword 9227



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

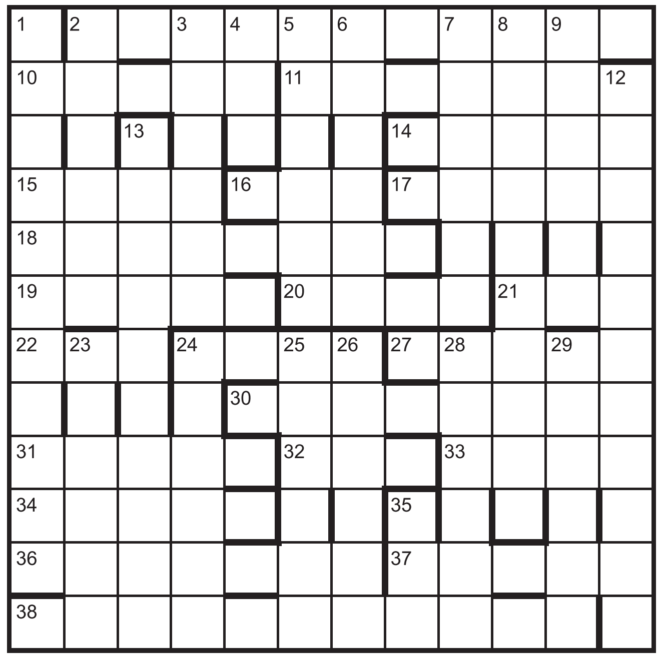
The Listener Crossword No 4765 Character Recognition by Vagans

Senders of the first three correct entries drawn will receive *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* or may choose from a selection of other books (see below). Send your entry with contact details completed to: Listener Crossword 4765, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, to arrive by June 8.

Listener 4762 solution on page 52

Prize options and more at listenercrossword.com

More information about Chambers books can be found at chambers.co.uk



Name...

Address...

Postcode .... **Phone/email**.................................

Every clue contains a superfluous character that must be removed to enable solving. Removals always leave real words, sometimes needing spacing or punctuation adjusted. The removals in down clues form three groups of six; those in across clues describe another group, of which solvers must highlight four members (each in a straight line, 14 contiguous cells in all), thereby forming a fifth. *The Chambers Dictionary* (2016) is the primary reference; one answer is an abbreviation.

Across
2 Wrongly slam city cop about material found in cello (11)
10 Bone in attitude assumed for balance (5)
11 Basil in crackers succeeded in Perth perhaps (7)
14 Annual income from cycling logo (5)
15 Bleat given by learner in school test (4)
16 Copy recording with loss of tone (3)
17 Freedom curtailed when rotund: such is life in Edinburgh (5)
18 Deriving places in Christchurch area circled by hawks (8, *two words*)
19 Rainbow-named planet with endless torrid section (5)
20 Did nutter moan aloud in Glasgow alley? (4)
21 Dog joining a bishop for one (3)
22 Black mark's no good for a SE Asian (3)
24 Soccer organisation is panning cricket club accountant (4)
27 Shale damaged Northerner's sneck (5)
30 Tourist stumbling upon US hostel containing rare hearth (8)
31 Scots drivel about old chocolate producer (5)
32 Age difference really shows (3)
33 Gratin taken by the handful in Holyrood from King and Emperor, very quietly (4)
34 Onward to entering Alabama National Guard (5)
36 Washes out French article worn by male (7)
37 Crash in the Maldives starts to lift all auto risk insurance (5)
38 Unsuccessful attempts to set off left Tsar's ass cranky (11, *two words*)

Down
1 Preacher's flamed using local patois (11)
2 Band go bad after depression (6)
3 East London hooligan Jim is returning after end of night drunk (6)
4 Get around Rome without money again as of old (3)
5 Repeatedly maul one much sweeter than Philemon? (6)
6 Omicron probably ravaged Ilkley (6)
7 Dalí and I aboard Santa's transport, drunk (6)
8 Opine Amir ill when mixing lubricant (10, *two words*)
9 Plan in Yorkshire dale that last appears (6)
12 Will, perhaps, of some sad Parisian couple leading to hopelessness (11)
13 Repeat stocking filler for the wicked that could blame crackling on the ingle (10)
23 Bloomer Beth concealed in Gaza leaflet (6)
24 Some old Tibetan in modern Gaul (6)
25 Those in Calais keeping Tay in oil hauled up plates of sea gooseberries etc (6)
26 A very Gallic tango for relaxed dad (6, *two words*)
28 Take in Africa, the Horn, without following hovercraft-like vehicle (6)
29 For emu very questionable behaviour consumes police chiefs (6)
35 Plant's process advanced any odd US city (3)

LISTENER STATISTICS, plus personal record, for last year are still available to senders of an SAE (overseas stamp exempt) to JE Green at the above address. Envelopes measuring approximately 230×160mm may carry a normal stamp; larger envelopes will require a "Large" stamp or two normal ones.

Mindset by 700

1. Divide these words into sets of two. Each set is a clue to a pair of letters. **Which ten-letter word can be formed from these pairs?**

DAKOTA EDUCATION EXPRESSES HESITATION
IRON NORTH NOTE RELIGIOUS
SECOND SYMBOL

2. FOUR NINE THIRTYSIX FORTYNINE SIXTYFOUR EIGHTY are square square numbers. **What is the next one?**

3. Why might 700 not be supporters of Blackpool and Barrow in the football league?

Answers on page 53

Literary Quiz
The Times Literary Desk

Inside Marty's Mind
In which novels by Martin Amis did these characters appear?
1 Charles Highway
2 John Self
3 Nicola Six
4 Szmul Zacharias

Answers on page 53

Bridge Andrew Robson

I'm a big believer in responding light to partner's opening bid. Would you respond to a 1♥ opener with these?

♠ J 9 8 6 2	♠ 2	♠ Q 6 2
♥ 2	♥ Q 7	♥ 9 7
♦ K J 6 2	♦ K 9 8 4 3 2	♦ J 9 6 2
♣ 9 7 3	♣ 9 7 6 3	♣ Q 9 7 3

Yes with the first — 1♠. This satisfies the useful rule of ten — scraping up a response when the number of cards in the suit you can bid at the One-level added to your total high-card points gets to ten.

Also yes with the second — this time with the "dustbin" 1NT. You may have a game (or even a grand slam — facing ♠Axxx, ♥AKJxx, ♦Axxx, ♣-), and (more prosaically) want to pre-empt out the spades.

I'd pass 1♥ with the third though, a flat defensive hand where it's hard to envisage either side making game.

My friend Christopher Clarke of Oxfordshire showed me this deal from an online duplicate.

Dealer South N-S Vul

North: ♠ - ♥ A 9 6 3 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ 10 8 7 6 4 2
West: ♠ 7 2 ♥ K Q 10 7 ♦ 10 9 8 4 3 2 ♣ 9
East: ♠ A Q J 9 6 5 ♥ J 8 4 ♦ Q J 5 ♣ K
South: ♠ K 10 8 4 3 ♥ 5 ♦ A K ♣ A Q J 5 3

Table One

S	W	N	E
1♠(1)	Pass	Pass	Pass(2)

(1) The normal "High Fives" didn't-work well. However, that was not the main issue.
(2) How pleasing to defend a SPADE contract.

Declarer won West's singleton club lead (to the king) with his ace. The recommended line is to cash the ace-king of diamonds, cross to the ace of hearts, ruff a heart, and exit with a club. You are bound to score two more spade tricks (on the layout) to make seven tricks. In the event, declarer garnered six — one down.

Table Two

S	W	N	E
1♠	Pass	1NT(1)	Pass
3♣(2)	Pass	5♠(3)	Pass
7♣(4)	end		

(1) Yes. Tabling a void trump when the (albeit weak) hand has so much potential is, quite simply, losing bridge.
(2) A slight stretch, as this jump-rebid is 100 per cent forcing to game. But the shape and texture is so good that it's worth the upgrade.
(3) Void-showing splinter (what else can it be?).
(4) Surely partner has to have the ace of hearts and the king of clubs for what is effectively a grand slam try.

Declarer was a tad disappointed dummy didn't hold the king of clubs. But after winning West's king of hearts lead with dummy's ace and, at trick two, leading a club, he was happy to observe East's king appear. He could now win the ace and table his cards, crossruffing his remaining ten trumps. Grand slam made.

Beat that for an example of why you should respond with light, shapely hands.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

The next Jumbo crossword will appear on bank holiday Monday

For more crosswords and your favourite puzzles go to thetimes.co.uk

Jumbo crossword No 1617

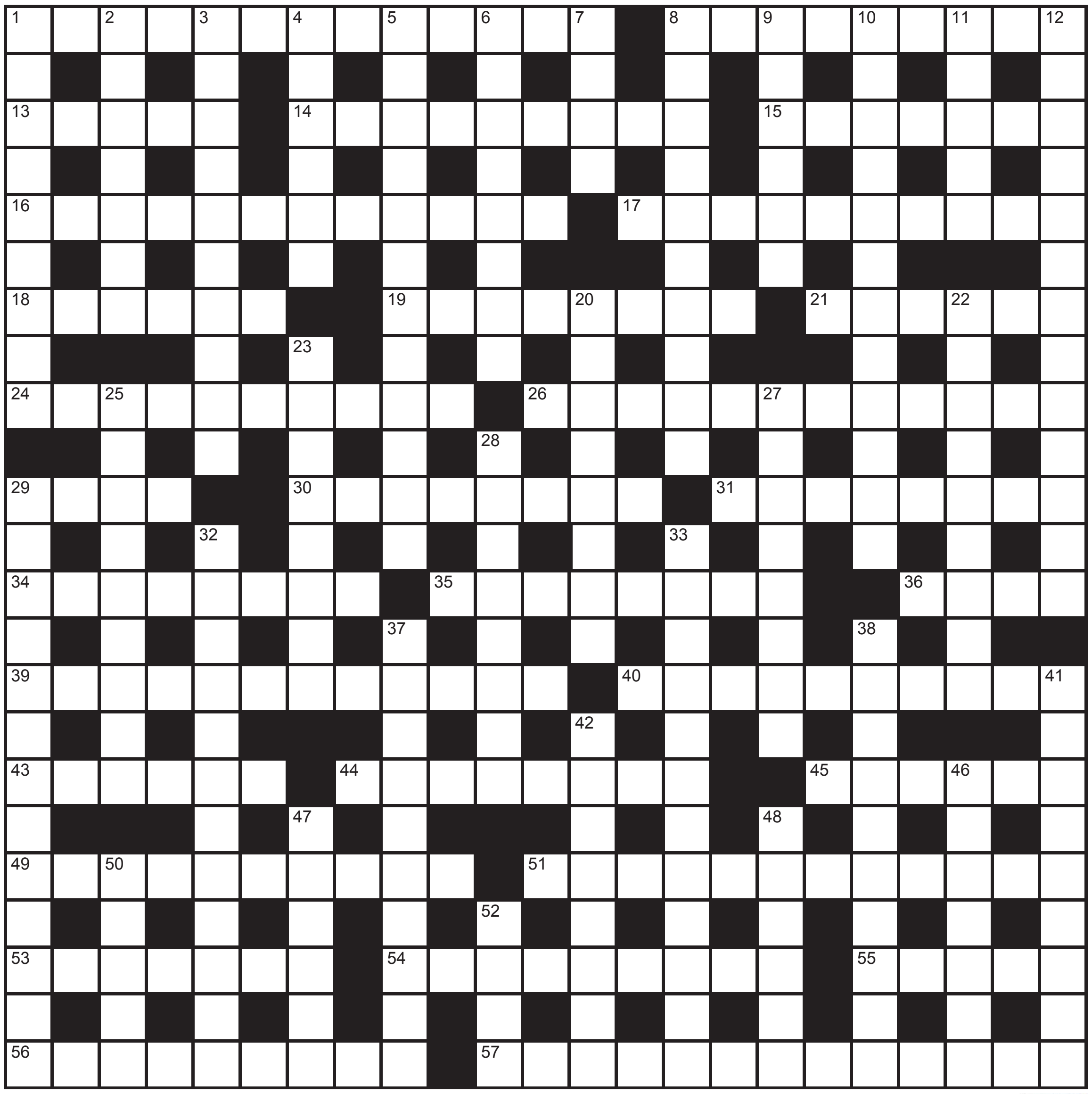
Cryptic clues

Across

1 Unusual Scots MP fibbed about Siamese perhaps being not involved (13)
8 I teach juggling with set principle of style (9)
13 Discourage animal eating turnip's top (5)
14 Inferior cheese is months old — consume with gin, perhaps? (9)
15 Chap keeping Swiss canton's travel business (7)
16 Musician playing in recitals includes Tippett's last two pieces (12)
17 Leader's alarm perhaps with state of climate? But there's no answer (10)
18 Consternation of saint hugged by two girls (6)
19 Puzzle of a wrong mark and right mark for oral presentation (8)
21 Give a sermon with power and range of influence (6)
24 Slow treacle flowing in a river (10)
26 Strong declaration in favour of those abandoning the centre position (12)
29 Horse galloped around ring (4)
30 Tricked out of diamonds after tea dance (8)
31 Educated people fired by it are coming back (8)
34 Support alcoholic drink? Nearly all not drinking (8)
35 Short-lived insect — he mates initially in record time (8)
36 Send a telegram with anger (4)
39 Calm northern valley of great beauty in poetic evening sunset colour (4-8)
40 Fish with a nice wild sparkle (10)
43 Fuss about name surrounded by female and male enthusiasts? (6)
44 Alcoholic drinks with a lot of ice beat writer (8)
45 What's in a can of beer? Weight I would gain (6)
49 What newspapers want academic craft? (10)
51 Madly irate lunatic with unclear speech (12)
53 National poet's got backing in India more than once (7)
54 Fraud has Charlie and Tanya consistently left short (9)
55 One having to complain about girl (5)
56 Second French cathedral throws out daughter with a mammal (9)
57 Chambers perhaps with entries for second and note optional (13)

Down

1 Open University took chances during study that's set up (9)
2 Weapon category including uranium and tritium primarily (7)
3 Slightly spoil spirit for the whole year (10)
4 Allowed to hold naughty child, one clinging on forcefully (6)
5 Where to hear a major Roman poet supporting emperor's retinue? (5,7)
6 Prize short willow, perhaps on a southern river (8)
7 A place for the rest of pupils either end of dining-room (4)
8 Be sensitively aware of increase in price (10)
9 Item of furniture's alight (6)
10 Height on river wave — such a one could damage locks (12)
11 Perhaps piece of chicken's off with temperature going over (5)
12 Remove pinches rum in school (13)
20 Rage after Sir takes time for one more rum (8)
22 I am appearing in a country film (9)
23 Announce concert including the French in Channel Islands (8)
25 Cold meat on sale finally with Christmas coming up is a slow mover (9)
27 Fitting garment with the necessary skill (8)
28 Company representative has residence and second pad (8)
29 An element of resistance with King Arthur's father taking girl into marketplace (13)
32 Opponents met wrangling for delay (12)
33 What aids preservation for rare tiger all over the place (12)
37 House band making only one side of an LP? (10)
38 Indistinct slur concealing a new instruction to musicians (10)
41 End of English eleven one short with time up in test (9)
42 Who painted only at sea in shades like crimson and scarlet? (8)
46 Cereal managed in Angola without key nitrogen (7)
47 Rise high like magpie circling rook (6)
48 Note good trap needed for seal (6)
50 Island a Republican managed (5)
52 Boy eats right sort of fat (4)



Name...

Address...

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.... Postcode....................................

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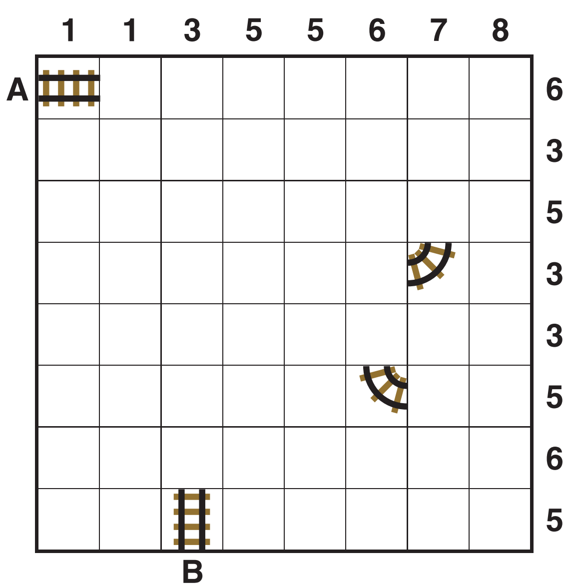
Prizes



The prize for each of the first correct solutions to the Cryptic and times2 Jumbo clues to be opened will be a collection of Times reference books — including *The Times Universal Atlas of the World, Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus,* and *Bradford's Crossword Solver's Dictionary* published by HarperCollins. Entries should be marked "Cryptic" or "times2" and sent to: The Times Jumbo Crossword 1617, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ; or emailed to: jumbo@thetimes.co.uk, with "Cryptic 1617" or "times2 1617" in the subject line, to arrive by June 8. Open to 18+, UK & ROI residents only. The winners and the solutions will be published on June 10.

Train Tracks No 1947

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself. *Solution on Monday**



times2 clues

Across

1 Fitness to set sail (13)
8 Policeman; painter (9)
13 Harass persistently (5)
14 Unresolvable situation (9)
15 Make unsettled (7)
16 Woodwind player (12)
17 Leader or indicator of a trend (10)
18 Catch fire (6)
19 Remaining the same (8)
21 Perfect place (6)
24 Able to be sacrificed or abandoned (10)
26 Very unwilling to spend or use resources (12)
29 Eg, Man (4)
30 Old and torn (8)
31 Bad headache (8)
34 Distance across a circle (8)
35 Conscious (8)
36 Retained (4)
39 Be indecisive, hesitate (12)
40 Flying machine (10)
43 Go back (on a contract) (6)
44 Regard with great respect (8)
45 Root vegetable (6)
49 Not concentrating (10)
51 Prevent from functioning normally (12)
53 Substance burnt for perfume (7)
54 Interfering (with) (9)
55 Make a formal speech (5)
56 Vehicle for a couple (3-6)
57 Get the wrong end of the stick (13)

Down

1 Sign up to (eg, a periodical) (9)
2 Decline to vote (7)
3 Deceiving through greater ingenuity (10)
4 Sample (*A, not E*) (6)
5 Unable to express oneself clearly (12)
6 Anglican church service (8)
7 Move slowly from side to side (4)
8 Intelligence; skill (10)
9 Incendiary weapon (6)
10 Three-hundredth anniversary (12)
11 Main branch of a tree (5)
12 Feeling of self-consciousness or shame (13)
20 Grotesque misrepresentation (8)
22 Prudent; thrifty (9)
23 Immensity (8)
25 Throbbing sensation (9)
27 Keep in good condition (8)
28 Military waking signal (8)
29 Person involved in, eg, manufacturing (13)
32 Warlike behaviour (12)
33 Process of decline (12)
37 Person determining the speed for a race (10)
38 (Of clothing) loose and ample (10)
41 Rebuke (9)
42 Without hurt (8)
46 US-Canadian falls (7)
47 Consent to receive (6)
48 Argue over a selling price (6)
50 Technique of painting on dry plaster (5)
52 Muslim prayer leader (4)

THE STAGE IS SET

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